Wahid ousted; Megawati new Indon president

Story Below, Col. 2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

TUESDAY, JULY 24, 2001 ★★ 32 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 226 ₱15

No talking in the rain for Cabinet, protesters

By Philip Tubeza and Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

TOP officials of the Macapagal administration were ready to listen. But leaders of militant groups weren't ready to let such a dialogue spoil their planned protest on the occasion of President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address.

There were polite handshakes but no ex-

NO/ A14

Hail, hail 'sunshine' Joe's here

By V. Contreras

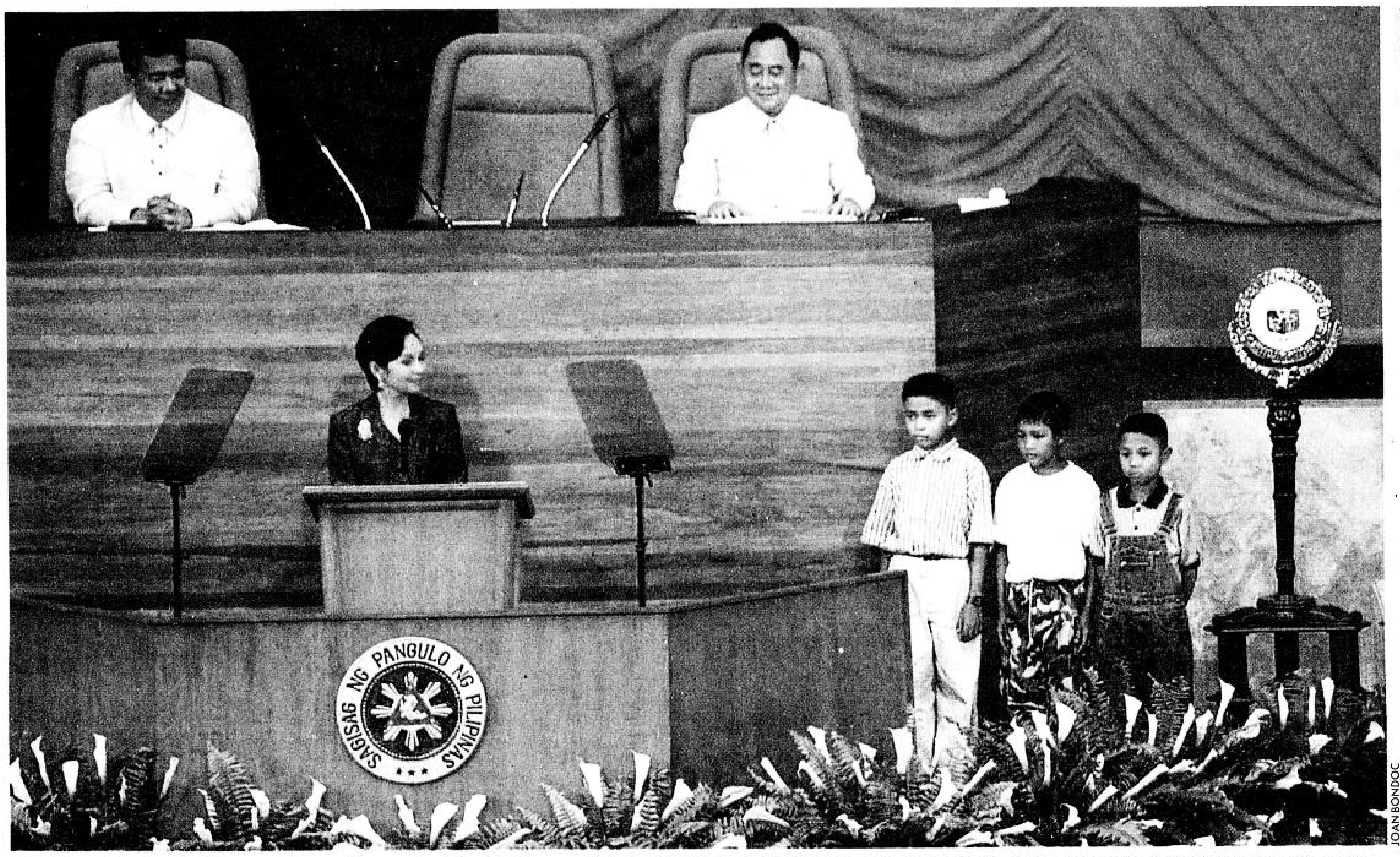
NEW House Speaker Jose de Venecia: the face that launched a thousand sobriquets.

A number of congressmen yester-

HAIL/ A14

DAMI KONG PALAYAW

Jobs, housing, food ...


JOAN BONDOC

NEARLY upstaging President Macapagal-Arroyo at the opening of the 12th Congress, 3 children from Payatas, Jomar Pabalan, Jason Vann Banogan, Erwin Dolera give poverty a face in the President's Sona.

PLAIN TALK

- Farms as loan collateral
- 1,000 rolling stores to sell rice at P14 a kilo
- Farmers to import rice directly
- To cut in half prices of medicines frequently bought by public
- This year half a million urban poor families will be insured with Philhealth
- Schoolhouse in every barangay
- P20B for housing for poor
- To cut in half number of signatures needed by gov't agencies
- Housing permits need only 45 approvals instead of 188
- Create departments of housing, IT and telecommunication
- Interconnect Smart, Globe properly
- Continue liberalizing airline industry
- P500M for community projects in conflict areas in Mindanao; revive the East Asean Growth Area
- Hold office in agri department until a million jobs created
- Emergency jobs for out-of-school youth

'I'm not miracle worker but I'll do my best'

By Juliet L. Javellana

"I'M NOT a miracle worker," President Macapagal-Arroyo declared toward the end of her first State of the Nation Address at the opening of the 12th Congress yesterday after unveiling her administration's four-point program to fight mass poverty that would require no less than divine intervention to win.

"I am not a miracle worker but I will do what is right. I will do my best. Let us all do what is right, what is best and God will do the rest," Ms Macapagal said in her speech, which lasted over an hour and was interrupted 86 times by applause.

The daughter of the "Poor Boy from Lubao," as her late father President Diosdado Macapagal was called, said she was taking on her shoulders the duty of pursuing the fight against poverty.

In the 65-minute-long address, which was also marked by what she called "plain talk" and "common sense," President Macapagal promised concrete results within the year.

Her audience gave her its longest applause when she reiterated her support for the fair and speedy trial of former President Joseph Estrada.

"If there were times," the President said, "that I showed concern for the personal circumstances of the former President, it is not a sign of diminished determination to see justice done."

"But as I sometimes extend a hand covered by a velvet glove, inside it is an iron hand where jus-

JOBS/ A14

Drilon by 1 vote, JDV by landslide

By Armand N. Nocum, Volt Contreras and Juliet L. Javellana

WHILE Rep. Jose de Venecia readily won what was probably the most one-sided race for the Speakership in the history of the Philippine Congress, Sen. Franklin Drilon made it by only one vote to the Senate presidency.

The battle lines were clearly drawn between the 13 administration senators belonging to the People Power Coalition (PPC) who voted for Drilon and the 11 others who voted for opposition-backed Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Predictably, Malacañang was pleased with the election of President Macapagal-Arroyo's allies to the leadership of the two Houses of Congress.

"This shows that we are now consolidated and so we have to work," President Macapagal said in a TV interview after delivering her first State of the Nation Address.

But the Senate itself is not quite consolidated.

"Watch out for the guns of August, Mr. President (referring to Drilon)," opposition Sen. Blas Ople warned during his nomination speech for Pimentel.

In their speeches, other opposition senators yesterday said they were dropping their "critical collaboration" posture and will go all out against the Macapagal administration.

"The big guns are now in place, raring to blast away at the excesses

DRILON/ A12

Cheers from business, jeers from Loi

By Doris C. Dumlao and Volt Contreras

BUSINESSMEN and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) applauded President Macapagal-Arroyo's first State of the Nation Address (Sona) but poor farmers and supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada were unhappy with it.

Stock market analysts said the President's pro-business speech would give the market some relief today although they said payback time would come once the market started to look for concrete results of her promises.

The Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FFCCII) said it was supporting the national agenda outlined by the President.

"If all sectors heed her call (to set aside political bickering), then our country will succeed and move forward," said Donald G. Dee, president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines.

While Ms Macapagal appealed for a one-year break in political

CHEERS/ A14

Step aside Mang Pandoy, enter Jason, Jomar, Erwin

By Rocky Nazareno and Volt Contreras

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday gave a new face—three faces, in fact—to poverty, in a performance that lawmakers later variously described as a touch of show biz, the stuff of fairy tales and a rehash of the woeful "Mang Pandoy" saga.

Ms Macapagal presented Jason, Jomar and Erwin, boys who live in the infamous Payatas dump, to personalize her call for political unity, economic reforms and moral transformation during her first State of the Nation Address (Sona).

STEP/ A12

Megawati new Indon president; Wahid sacked

WAHID: Ousted

JAKARTA—Megawati Sukarnoputri was sworn in as Indonesian head of state on Monday minutes after the national assembly dismissed President Abdurrahman Wahid and elected her in a unanimous vote.

However, Wahid questioned the legitimacy of the vote and has vowed not to surrender the presidency even though he does not have the support of the armed forces or police.

Megawati, the daughter of Indonesia's founding leader Sukarno, is Indonesia's fifth president since it gained independence after World War II. She is the overwhelmingly Muslim nation's first female leader.

"With all humbleness I accept the people's wishes," she said in an inaugural speech that contained no specific policy initiatives.

"I do understand that goodwill is not enough to resolve our problems," she said, adding that the nation needed "discipline and unity."

"I ask all sides to accept the democratic process, because this is the voice of the people," she said in apparent reference to

MEGAWATI/ A12

Striking similarities between GMA and Mega

MEGAWATI Sukarnoputri, the new Indonesian president, is averse to being compared with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

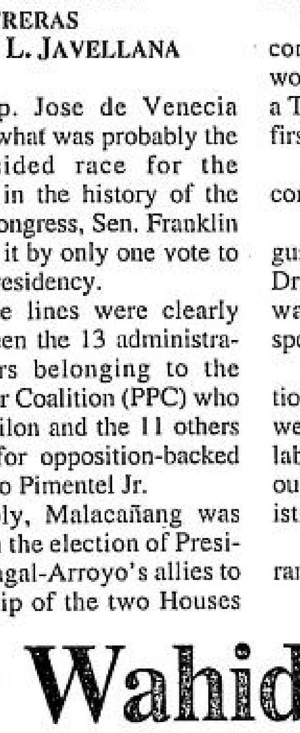
"The Philippines is the Philippines, Indonesia is Indonesia. Macapagal is Macapagal, and likewise Megawati is Megawati," she flatly declared in a statement last May.

True enough, the differences are many.

Megawati, unlike the ex-university economics professor Ms Macapagal, attended two universities but did not graduate. Many doubt she has the intellectual heft to steer Indonesia out of its political and economic malaise.

Though both leaders each has three children, Megawati has been married three times while devout Catholic Ms Macapagal remains married to her husband of 33 years, lawyer Jose Miguel Arroyo.

STRIKING/ A12


MEGAWATI: Sweet revenge

She's popular, but can she rule Indonesia?

JAKARTA, Indonesia—She's popular, but can she rule Indonesia?

Megawati Sukarnoputri, who became Indonesia's fifth president yesterday after her one-time childhood friend Abdurrahman Wahid was ignominiously ousted by parliament, is seen as a popular but politically untested conservative.

Perceived by intellectuals as a lightweight, the 54-year-old daughter of Indonesia's founding president Sukarno has assumed her late father's mantle and is set to move back into the palace where she grew up.

SHE'S/ A12

AT LAST NATAPOS RIN!

Second FRONT PAGE

Recto is No. 12, Comelec rules

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE NATIONAL Board of Canvassers last Friday declared Senators Ralph Recto and Gregorio Honasan the 12th and 13th place winners, respectively, in the last elections, but the Puwersa ng Masa protested the ruling yesterday.

The PnM claimed the NBC's declaration was illegal because it was not approved by a majority of the seven-member Commission on Elections.

The resolution was approved by only three commissioners—Chair Alfredo Benipayo, Rex Borra and Florentino Tuason—with Borra penning the decision.

Two commissioners, Luzviminda Tancangco and Rufino Javier, dissented while two others, Mehol Sadain and Ralph Lantion, were absent.

The canvass report showed that Recto received 10,498,940 votes to Honasan's 10,454,527, for a difference of only 44,413 votes.

The bigger difference, however, is that the 12th place winner will serve three more years in the Senate than the 13th placer.

As such, Recto will serve a full six-year term, while Honasan will serve the remaining three years in the term of Teofisto Guingona who was appointed Vice President by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Lawyer Rufus Rodriguez, counsel for Sen. Loi Ejercito of the PnM, said yesterday the resolution was illegal and void as it was not approved by a majority of the commissioners, as required in the Comelec's rules of procedure and Article XI, Section 7, of the Constitution.

"The Comelec rules of procedure and the provision on Constitutional commissions are clear that any resolution or ruling should be made by a majority of the members and not merely by a majority of those present," Rodriguez told reporters.

Section 5 of the Comelec rules on procedure states that "when sitting en banc, four members of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business. The concurrence of a majority of the members of the commission shall be necessary for the pronouncement of a decision, resolution, order or ruling."

The resolution approved by Benipayo and the two commissioners denied four petitions filed by Rodriguez contesting 150,000 votes for Recto in the provinces of Lanao del Norte, Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur, and another petition seeking the deduction of 30,000 votes from Recto's total in Zamboanga del Norte.

In dismissing the petitions, the resolution merely stated that the NBC had lost jurisdiction over the cases as it had already proclaimed the 13 winning senators.

Rodriguez said he would file a motion to recall the resolution. He said the 13 new senators cannot perform their functions until the Comelec issues a resolution approved by the majority, since the senators' proclamation was based on an illegal resolution.

RECTO

Tancangco noted above her signature that she was dissenting as the resolution was "hurriedly done." She and Javier said they would issue their own separate dissenting opinion.

Free eye surgeries

WITH almost half a million Filipinos completely blind, the Department of Health yesterday announced that it would soon conduct free cataract surgeries for indigent patients in government hospitals nationwide.

DOH statistics showed that some 490,000 Filipinos are totally blind and about 700,000 can see with only one eye. The DOH also found out that cataracts cause most of the cases of preventable blindness.

"These conditions could have been prevented if visual health services are widely available," said Health Manuel Dayrit.

Party-list winners, losers hit poll body

By Rocky Nazareno and Gerald G. Lacuarta

THREE still unproclaimed party-list representatives yesterday lashed out at the Commission on Elections for "its slow pace in proclaiming the party-list candidates who garnered at least two percent of total votes cast."

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, who with two other party-list winners held a press conference at the House media office, said it was "ironic that winning party-list representatives who legitimately represent the marginalized and under-represented sectors of society... are now the ones marginalized."

Fifteen representatives from the party-list groups which won in the May 14 elections could not take their seats at yesterday's opening of the 12th Congress because of the Comelec's failure to comply with a Supreme Court requirement.

Failure of election

At the same time, a group of 45 losing party-list groups has asked the Comelec to immediately declare the May 14 party-list elections a failure because of alleged massive fraud and discrepancies in the canvass results.

The Coalition of Marginalized Party List Groups (CPAG) has also called for new party-list elections to coincide with the barangay elections on May 13, 2002.

The others who joined Rosales in the press briefing were Rep. Joy Young of Promdi and Louie Coran of APEC.

The Supreme Court had earlier stopped the Comelec from proclaiming the party-list winners because of disqualification complaints and directed the poll body to work with "extreme urgency" to submit a report on the qualifications of the 162 party-list groups for the high court to lift the suspension.

Rosales said Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo had assured them that the Comelec would be able to submit a partial list of the first 20 top party-list contenders tomorrow.

"At the earliest, we can probably expect a proclamation on the 30th of July," she said.

Some three to five million Filipinos are not amply represented with the continued non-proclamation of party-list winners, Rosales said.

Conscience bloc

"From the party-list caucus, we hope to build a conscience bloc within the House that can include individuals cutting across party lines," she said.

Gerardo del Mundo, counsel for the Bagong Bayani OFW Party and head of the CPAG legal team, said the discrepancy between the total number of votes received by the 162 party-list groups and the actual number of voters was "simply preposterous."

Del Mundo cited the Comelec's own Party List Canvass Report, dated June 19, which showed that voters who actually voted in the party-list elections only totaled 11.2 million but party-list groups got a combined total of 14.1 million, or a difference of 2.8 million votes.

Del Mundo last Friday submitted to the Comelec documentation on alleged massive electoral fraud and widespread irregularities, wholesale manipulation of tampered, falsified and manufactures election returns and certificates of canvass, and large-scale *dagdag-bawas* (vote shaving and padding) to support the CPAG petition.

"If these wanton shameless overpadding of party-list votes in favor of political parties, religious command votes, big business chambers and left-leaning groups, how then can we validly say that the party-list elections last May 14 truly reflect the sentiments of our basic sectors?" said Vic del Fierro, CPAG chair and head of the 349 Coalition.

The Comelec is currently screening the 162 party-list groups, particularly the 10 winning groups, based on an eight-point guideline issued by the Supreme Court in connection with a disqualification case filed by Bayan Muna against 17 groups led by the Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga.

The Comelec has been given until July 29 to complete the review.

RP bucks 'open skies' bid by US

THE PHILIPPINES will oppose a US proposal to allow unrestricted aviation access into each other's markets, a foreign affairs official said yesterday.

US charge d'affaires Michael Malinowski had written a letter to Manila informing it that a US team was to arrive here to discuss an open skies policy with local aviation officials.

"The purpose of the visit would be to discuss both bilateral and multilateral options for establishing an open skies relationship between our two countries, and to answer any questions that Philippine authorities may have about open skies," Malinowski had said in his letter to the transportation department.

The proposal would remove restrictions on routes, capacities, flight frequencies and fare pricing, department officials said.

But such an arrangement "will spell the death of our airlines," said the foreign office official who did not want to be named.

"They will gobble up our airlines," the official said. "We cannot agree at this point to grant them open skies." *AFP*

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MIKE'S WOES

'A misunderstanding'

By Martin P. Marfil

A MISUNDERSTANDING between friends was how the President's husband described his public feud with a former Palace secretary.

Mike Arroyo and Veronica "Bing" Rodrigo had traded accusations that the other had accepted bribes to help get a vetoed telecommunications franchise bill recalled.

"I don't know anything about that. This is apparently a misunderstanding between friends. I must have been misunderstood by (Rodrigo)," Arroyo said in a dzBB interview as he dismissed the allegations.

Rodrigo, who recently resigned as President Macapagal-Arroyo's correspondence secretary, alleged that Arroyo and his friends had, for a P50 million bribe, attempted to have the vetoed bill recalled.

The bill would have granted a franchise to a firm believed to be owned by Jaime Dichaves, a crony of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada.

Rodrigo struck back at Arroyo after she felt alluded to when Arroyo claimed in his radio program that a Palace secretary had been bribed to have the vetoed bill recalled.

But days after the public feud, the allegations remain unsubstantiated.

Arroyo has announced plans to go on holiday in the United States amid reports that the Senate would conduct a probe of the case.

Yesterday, Arroyo said his going abroad at this time was not an attempt to evade the Senate investigation.

"I'm willing to (testify in the Senate) so that the truth will be known..." he said.

Arroyo explained that he was supposed to have left two weeks ago but decided to delay his departure so he could attend the opening of Congress yesterday and watch the premiere of his son's film last night.

Arroyo said that he would be leaving for the US today.

The President's husband continues to believe that the charges against him could still be part of an alleged "destabilization plot."

No unity for Marcos claimants

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government is in for a tough task of uniting the Marcos victims as a faction of the claimants yesterday refused to cooperate with the other camp in lobbying for their indemnification.

Lawyer Rod Domingo Jr. said he "would never meet" with representatives of the Samahan ng mga Ex-detainees Laban sa Detensyon at para sa Amnestiya (Selda) even to draft a bill that could end their long pursuit of compensation from the Marcoses.

Domingo also hit the Macapagal administration for its inactive interest in the plight of the 9,539 human rights abuse victims, saying Malacañang still has not made its position on the compensation of the claimants.

"In a way, Estrada was better because at least, he was sincere," Domingo said in a phone interview yesterday. "He approved the use of the $150 million, but what about this government?"

"What is the position of this Macapagal government? Is it in favor of compensating the victims?" he asked, adding if the claimants still do not get their compensation under the present administration, it would be very difficult for them to get anything else in the future.

Domingo and Robert Swift, the claimants' lawyers, along with elected Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales, have met with President Macapagal and PCGG officials in Malacañang recently to push for the waiver of the government's claim on the $35-million Arelma assets pending litigation in a Hawaii court.

The Selda, on the other hand, is seeking a third of the $644-million escrow account in the Philippine National Bank for indemnification and would file a bill on the House of Representatives through Bayan Muna party list to effect the payment.

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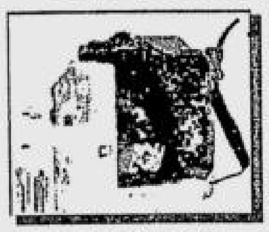

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Topic: BASIC LEGAL RESEARCH METHODS AND CITATIONS
Lecturer: PROF. MYRNA S. FELICIANO, Associate Dean and Supervisor, U.P. Law Center, Director, Institute of Judicial Administration
Topic: ACCESSING LEGAL INFORMATION THROUGH ELECTRONIC FORMAT
Lecturer: ATTY. EMMANUEL L. CAPARAS, President and Chairman of the Board, CD Technologies Asia, Inc.

Thursday, 16 August 2001 (1:30 – 5:00)
Topic: LEGAL WRITING: PRINCIPLES AND TECHNIQUES
Lecturer: PROF. SAMILO N. BARLONGAY, University of the Philippines, College of Law

Friday, 17 August 2001 (1:30 – 5:00)
Topic: LEGAL CONSTRUCTION AND INTERPRETATION
Lecturer: Prof. CARMELO V. SISON, University of the Philippines, College of Law

Saturday, 18 August 2001 (8:00 – 11:30)
Topic: CRITIQUE ON THE LEGAL WRITING ASSIGNMENT
Lecturer: PROF. SAMILO N. BARLONGAY

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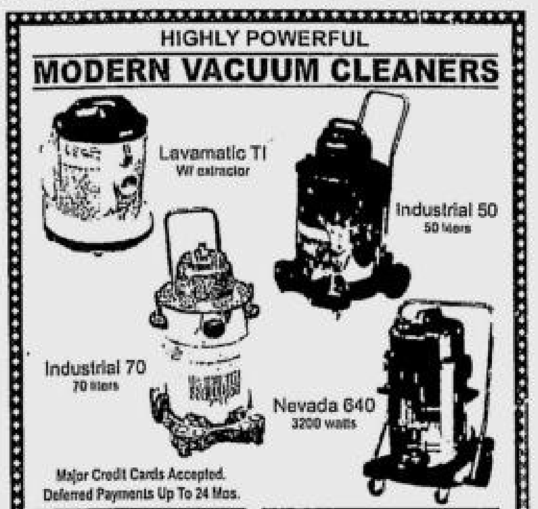

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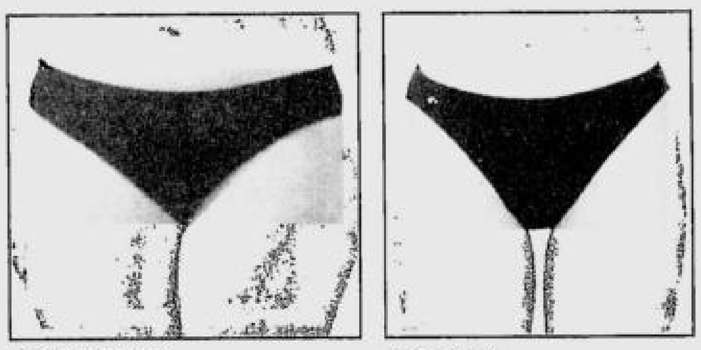

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Name/Philippine Affiliation	Field of Study/U.S. Affiliation
1. Carmela Bahiyyih M. Arevalo Occidental Mindoro National College San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	Forestry State University of New York Syracuse, New York
2. Marjelou R. Castillo Department of Agriculture Quezon City	Agricultural Economics Cornell University Ithaca, New York
3. Dario A. Cidro Philippine Rice Research Institute Department of Agriculture Muñoz, Nueva Ecija	Agricultural Extension Pennsylvania State University University Park, Pennsylvania
4. Ester B. Flores Philippine Carabao Center Department of Agriculture Muñoz, Nueva Ecija	Animal Sciences University of Arkansas Fayetteville, Arkansas
5. Paisar L. Gadiaware Mindanao State University General Santos City	Agricultural Engineering Oklahoma State University Stillwater, Oklahoma
6. Liberty O. Inciong Int'l Training Center on Pig Husbandry Department of Agriculture Lipa City	Agricultural Extension Pennsylvania State University University Park, Pennsylvania
7. William F. Mugot Bureau of Plant Industry Department of Agriculture Cagayan de Oro City.	Natural Resources Clemson University Clemson, South Carolina
8. Neil P. Parami Western Samar Agricultural Resources Development Program Department of Agriculture Calbayog, Samar	Agronomy Louisiana State University Baton Rouge, Louisiana
9. Jerry C. Serapion Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research Development Los Baños, Laguna	Fisheries Auburn University Auburn, Alabama
10. Rommel C. Sulabo SunJin Philippines Corporation Norzagaray, Bulacan	Swine Production South Dakota State University Brookings, South Dakota
11. Arvin B. Vista Business Dev't & Marketing Department MADECOR Environmental Systems, Inc. Los Baños, Laguna	Natural Resource Economics Michigan State University East Lansing, Michigan

Ph.D. PROGRAM

Name/Philippine Affiliation	Field of Study/U.S. Affiliation
1. Rizaldo E. Aldas Philippine Rice Research Institute Department of Agriculture Muñoz, Nueva Ecija	Agricultural Engineering University of California, Davis Davis, California
2. Eduardo A. Araral, Jr. University of the Philippines Los Baños, Laguna	Natural Resource Management Indiana University Bloomington, Indiana
3. Von Mark V. Cruz International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications (ISAAA) Southeast Asia Center Los Baños, Laguna	Plant Genetics Iowa State University Ames, Iowa
4. Karen C. Dazo Bureau of Animal Industry Department of Agriculture Quezon City	Veterinary Epidemiology Mississippi State University Mississippi
5. Lina B. Flor Philippine Rice Research Institute Department of Agriculture Muñoz, Nueva Ecija	Entomology University of Minnesota St. Paul, Minnesota
6. Josyline C. Javelosa Policy Analysis Service Department of Agriculture Quezon City	Agricultural Policy University of Florida Gainesville, Florida
7. Edgar Allan C. Po Xavier University Cagayan de Oro City	Agriculture & Natural Resources Michigan State University East Lansing, Michigan
8. Marissa V. Romero Philippine Rice Research Institute Department of Agriculture Muñoz, Nueva Ecija	Food Science Rutgers University New Brunswick, New Jersey
9. Aletta T. Yñiguez Marine Science Institute University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City	Marine Ecology University of Miami Miami, Florida

RESEARCH

Name/Philippine Affiliation	Field of Study/U.S. Affiliation
1. Mary Lynn S. Abiera Mindanao State University General Santos City	PhD Dissertation Research: Physiology of Crustaceans
2. Daniel L. Aquino Philippine Carabao Center Department of Agriculture Muñoz, Nueva Ecija	Rumen Biotechnologies for Improving Ruminant Nutrition Cornell University Ithaca, New York
3. Liborio S. Cabanilla College of Public Affairs University of the Philippines Los Baños, Laguna	Modernization of Philippine Agriculture: Theory and Practice Purdue University West Lafayette, Indiana
4. Mansueto D. Cuaton College of Agriculture Mindanao State University General Santos City	Use of Baking Yeast as Growth and Yield Enhancer of Crops
5. Zenaida N. Ganga Benguet State University La Trinidad, Benguet	Application of Biotechnology to Potato & Vegetable Crops Breeding Cornell University Ithaca, New York
6. Hernani G. Golez National Mango Research and Development Center Department of Agriculture Jordan, Guimaras	Production of Biocon Agent for Mango Leafhopper Utah State University Logan, Utah
7. Alan B. Loreto Visayas State College of Agriculture Baybay, Leyte	Detecting Incidence of Weevil in Sweetpotato Roots by Optical Method Purdue University West Lafayette, Indiana
8. Daniel C. Paduano, Jr. Xavier University Cagayan de Oro City	Nutritive and Feeding Value of Rensoni in Livestock and Poultry
9. Jesse D. Ronquillo University of the Philippines in the Visayas Iloilo	Development of Microalgae as Biocontrol Agents in Shellfish Hatchery University of Maryland

U.S. LECTURER

Name/U.S. Affiliation	Philippine Affiliation
Robert L. Zimdahl Colorado State University	University of the Philippines-Los Baños Los Baños, Laguna

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The Fulbright-Philippine Agriculture Scholarship Program (FPASP) was established on December 15, 1999 through a memorandum of agreement signed between the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Philippine-American Educational Foundation (PAEF), the Fulbright Commission in the Philippines that administers Fulbright exchanges between the Philippines and the United States. The program provides funding for educational exchanges between the Philippines and the United States. Funding for the FPASP comes from U.S. Public Law 480 Food for Peace Program.

The goal of this new initiative by the Philippine Department of Agriculture, the US Department of Agriculture and the Fulbright Commission in the Philippines is to contribute to the Philippine government's effort to modernize the agriculture and fisheries sectors of the country by developing their human resource base.

Under the program, awards are given to Filipinos to pursue graduate degree and non-degree study, research and consultations in the U.S. and to Americans to do lecturing, research, and consultations in the Philippines. Those eligible to apply are Filipinos working at the Department of Agriculture and its affiliate agencies, faculty from accredited state and private colleges and universities offering programs in agriculture and fisheries, and professionals from non-government organizations, government financial institutions, and other government and private agencies whose main work are in agriculture and fisheries. FPASP grants are given to American academics, scientists and professionals from the agriculture and fisheries disciplines. Awards are made through open competition and are based on individual merit regardless of candidates' religion, gender, and political views.

Agencies cooperating with PAEF in the implementation of the FPASP are the Philippine Department of Agriculture and Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), the US Department of Agriculture, the US State Department, the Institute of International Education (IIE), and the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES). Inquiries about the program should be addressed to: The Philippine-American Educational Foundation, 10th Floor, Ayala Life-FGU Center-Makati, 6811 Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1226; telephone 812-0919 and 892-3744.

Abus move US hostages

By Carlito Pablo

AMERICAN captives Martin and Gracia Burnham have been moved by the Abu Sayyaf from the jungles in the interior of Basilan island to the coastal town of Tuburan, military spokesperson Brig Gen. Edilberto Adan said yesterday.

He could not say whether this meant that the Abu Sayyaf were preparing to ship the Burnhams out of the province.

Adan said the military received the information five days ago that the Burnhams had been moved from the Sampinit Complex, a deeply forested area in the center of Basilan, to the Tuburan-Lamitan area.

It was in Tuburan where the Abu Sayyaf first landed with the 20 hostages, including the Burnhams, whom they had seized from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan on May 27.

Adan said two other remaining Dos Palmas hostages, Maria Fe Rosendo and Angie Montealegre, are in the Lantawan area.

Rosendo and Montealegre are with four captives taken by the Abu Sayyaf from Lamitan town and 13 others seized from a coconut plantation in Lantawan.

"Contrary to reports, we believe all hostages are still in Basilan," Adan said.

Earlier, the Armed Forces announced that soldiers were closing in on the bandits at the Sampinit Complex.

In a press briefing in Camp Aguinaldo, Adan said a total of 89 suspected rebels and their supporters have been detained since President Macapagal-Arroyo launched a crackdown early this month.

Of the total, 46 have been formally charged with kidnapping and illegal possession of firearms, while the others were under interrogation.

The total number of arrests is broken down as follows: 41 in Basilan; 42, Sulu and 6, Zamboanga City.

Sixteen other Abu Sayyaf rebels abandoned by their leader, Ghalib Andang, alias Commander Robot, surrendered to the Army in Jolo on Sunday, he said.

Adan claimed that Andang "has left his group to attend to himself only... and for this reason, many of his men have surrendered."

Andang spearheaded a kidnapping spree of dozens of foreign and Filipino hostages whom he ransomed off for millions of dollars.

From Zamboanga City, the military reported yesterday that two soldiers were wounded in a clash with the Abu Sayyaf kidnappers in Lamitan town in Basilan on Sunday.

Southern Command deputy chief for operations Col. Frank Gudani said the rebels are believed to have suffered heavy casualties because of heavy traces of blood.

Security forces also raided a rebel safehouse in the village of Busbus on Jolo island on Sunday and seized some 111 sacks of ammonium nitrate and blasting caps used in making homemade bombs, Gudani said.

With a report from AFP

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KUALA LUMPUR—President Macapagal-Arroyo will pay a visit to Malaysia for two days from Aug. 7, her first trip abroad since taking power.

A senior embassy official said Monday that Ms Macapagal's delegation would comprise Cabinet members and business representatives.

"This is Arroyo's first overseas trip since becoming president. Ties between Manila and Kuala Lumpur are cordial and this visit will further cement relations," the official said.

The official said Ms Macapagal and Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad will discuss issues such as ways to bolster security along their sea border and to enhance economic cooperation.

The Abu Sayyaf bandits in the southern Philippines raided the Malaysian resorts of Sipadan and Pandanan last year and seized numerous Malaysian and foreign hostages. *AFP*

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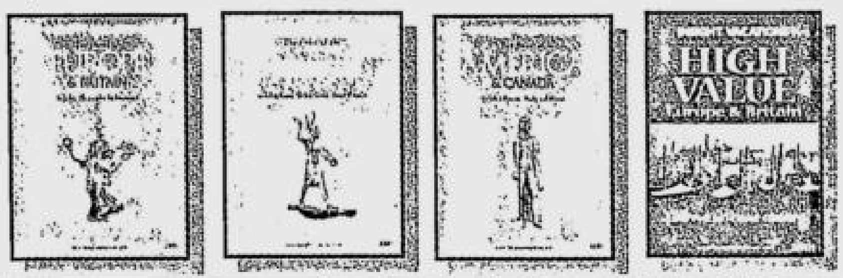

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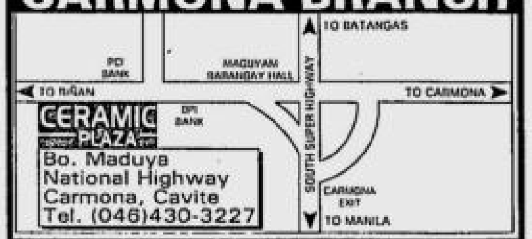

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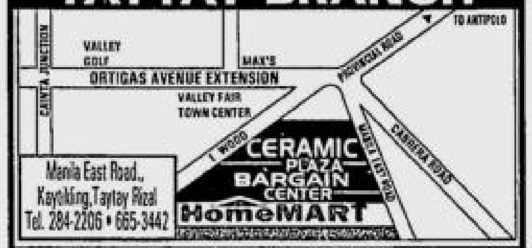

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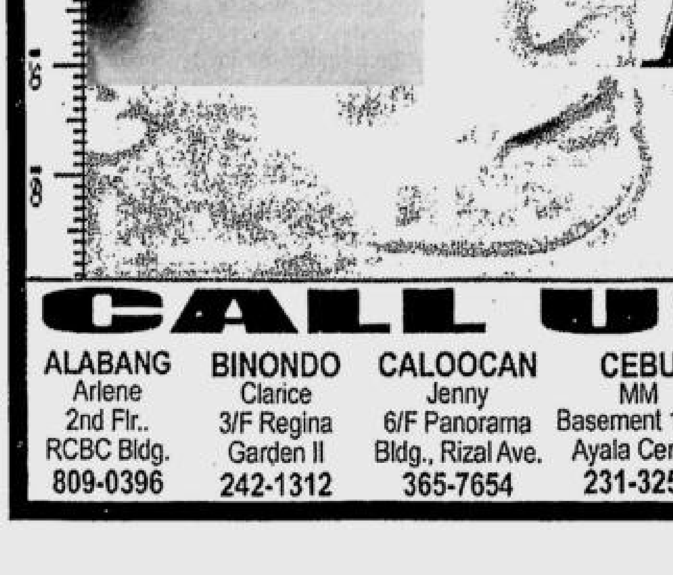

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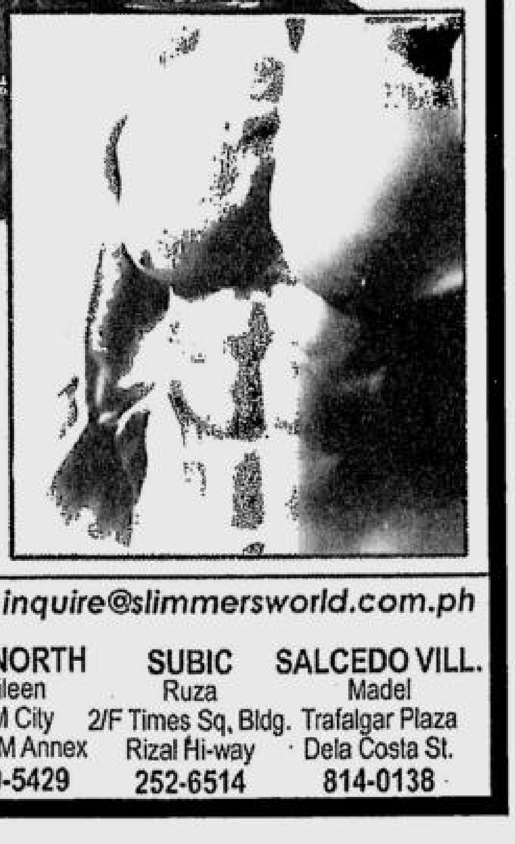

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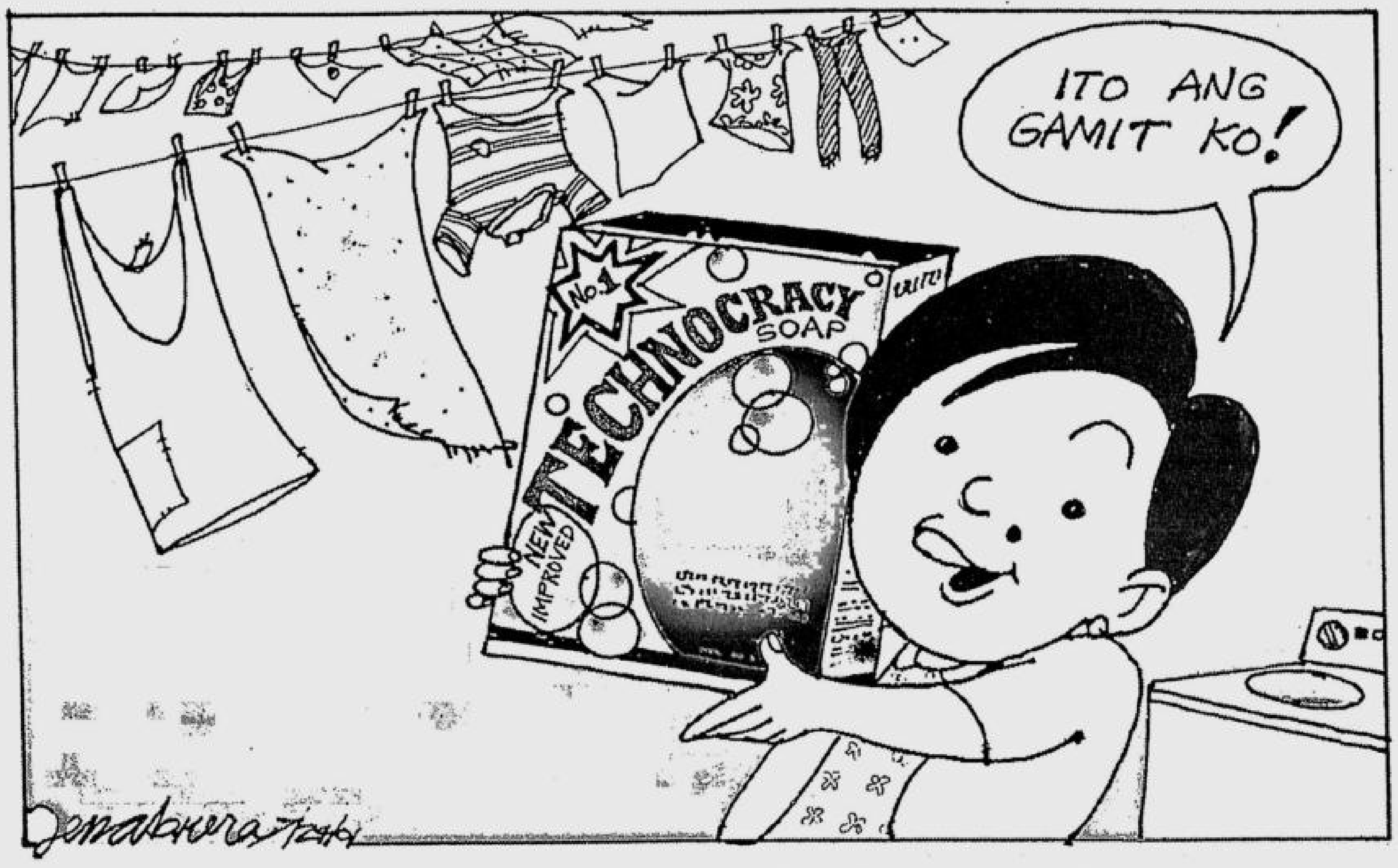

Agenda for the nation

EDITORIAL

LIKE A TRUE economist, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo announced clear goals, set definite targets and cited precise figures in her first State of the Nation Address. She must be a journalist at heart because she followed one of the basic rules of news writing: "Be concrete, be concrete, be concrete." She made many concrete proposals and kept abstractions and rhetoric to a minimum.

She put across her message more clearly by citing what three boys from Payatas—Jason, Jomar and Erwin—asked for in a letter that they sent to her on a paper boat that they floated on the Pasig River. These are, she said, "Jobs, houses, education and food on every table." This certainly is a very concrete enumeration of what the people most need today.

While filled with a lot of specifics and concrete details, the Sona didn't lack philosophical underpinnings. The President's approach to the problem of poverty was premised on four basic guidelines: an economic philosophy appropriate to the 21st century, a modernized agricultural sector founded on social equity, a social bias toward the disadvantaged and the raising of moral standards of government and society.

We don't think any well-meaning citizen or member of Congress will have any quarrel with the priorities that the President set in her speech. Among them are the improvement of the economy, including the alleviation of poverty; the peace and order problem; the modernization of agriculture; the development of information and communications technology; and good governance, including a strong effort to curb graft and corruption.

But all of these things need the expenditure of billions of pesos in public funds. Where will the President find the money, given that the government is now operating on a P140-billion deficit, and tax collections are expected to be low because of the declining economy? Well, probably she has the answer in, among other things, a sentence she made toward the end of her speech: "We have to think Filipino, buy Filipino, invest Filipino."

The nation is now going through another season of gloom and doom. We cannot depend on other nations and other people to get ourselves out of the rut we're in. We have to pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps. We have to think of ourselves first, protect our businesses and industries, buy Filipino-made products and invest in Filipino enterprises.

And, as the President suggests, the taipans and other business people should start pump-priming the economy by investing once more in the country, reviving business and industry, creating jobs and increasing the buying power of people. More investments will mean more businesses and industries, more businesses and industries will mean more purchasing power for people and more economic activity will mean more taxes going to the government to be used in priority programs.

But hand in hand with this, the government will have to wage an honest-to-goodness campaign against graft and corruption. The campaign will have to focus, as the President said, on the two primary tax-collecting agencies of the government: the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs. In this connection, we hail the President's proposal to impose a gross income tax. This will do away with tax deductions which are a source of corruption in the BIR.

On the anti-corruption campaign, the President will have to set a concrete example by ordering the investigation of the charge that First Gentleman Mike Arroyo received a P50-million bribe to push for the recall of her veto of the telecommunications franchise bill. This question will have to be resolved before people can be made to heed her call for an end to corruption in government.

The concreteness and specificity of the President's address is one of its strong points; it is also one of its weaknesses. Because it contains numerous concrete proposals, it tends to have no focus. The many legislative proposals that it contains cannot possibly be all acted upon during the current session. The address looks more like an agenda for the entire three-year term of the 12th Congress. The President will have to draw up a priority list of about five to ten proposals that urgently need congressional action during the current session.

With the three Payatas boys by her side, the President ended her speech with an emotional appeal to the members of Congress to make sacrifices and unite for the welfare, development and security of the nation. The President said she was not "a miracle worker" and could not solve all the problems of the nation by herself. We hope that her appeal touched a responsive chord in the legislators' hearts and that they will help push the Macapagal agenda of providing jobs, houses, education and food for the nation.

Should water rates be increased?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IT all started in a radio interview. But now the shocking story is all over town: First Gentlemen Mike Arroyo took a bribe to have his wife reconsider a veto to a telecommunication bill.

Is it true? I hope not. But will Veronica "Bing" Rodrigo invent a false story involving the First Gentleman, the husband of her childhood friend?

Once upon a time, there were two girls who went to grade and high school together. Gloria and Bing were best friends, the daughters of President Diosdado Macapagal and Sen. Francisco "Soc" Rodrigo. When Gloria become President, she appointed Bing as her appointment secretary. But she did not last long in the snake pit. She resigned soon afterwards. Last Friday, she told the public why.

She said she could not stomach the corruption in the Palace anymore. She said she did not want to go public but she was being made the scapegoat for an aborted franchise bill establishing the Philippine Communications Clearing House Inc. Congress passed the franchise bill but President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo vetoed it. Mike Arroyo said Bing resigned because of it. An angry Bing went on the air to accuse Arroyo of accepting money to have the President reconsider the veto and approve the franchise. She did not mention any amount, but one newspaper reported that it was P50 million.

This is so far the most serious corruption charge against the Macapagal administration, which finished its first six months only last Friday. Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the blue ribbon committee would conduct an investigation and summon the First Gentlemen—but that is only if Pimentel remains chair of the blue ribbon committee.

Text messages about the corruption charge against Arroyo is spreading like wildfire. It is interesting to note the similarities between Presidents Estrada and Macapagal. Erap thundered during his inauguration: "*Walang kumpare, walang kaibigan, walang kamaganak*..." Ms Macapagal said the same thing during her own inauguration. But it turned out their friends and relatives did not believe them. And this was also how Chavit Singson's story on Erap's corruption started: through text message and interviews.

* * *

Maynilad Water Inc. has launched a triple-barreled advertising and propaganda campaign to justify its proposed water rate increase. The increase is a hefty 50 percent above the present rate but Maynilad has boiled it down to an increase of only one-half centavo per liter. It also has comparative prices of a liter of premium gasoline, diesel fuel and bottled water, which naturally are very much higher than its water. The comparison, I think, is already overacting. Why did it not go the whole hog and compare the price of one liter of its water to one liter of champagne or one liter of cognac?

As part of its overacting, Maynilad also has a list of comparative basic water rates in selected provincial water districts and in selected cities of the world such as Casablanca, Macau, Mexico City and Jakarta. Naturally, the provinces and foreign cities selected were those with higher water rates. Those with lower rates were not mentioned.

Maynilad also distributed copies of letters from "satisfied customers" such as Sr. Christine Tan who has no objections to a water rate increase. I am sure there were also letters opposing it but these were not distributed.

At a public hearing at the MWSS auditorium last Friday, there were also community leaders (solicited I am sure) who spoke in favor of the increase as well as those who spoke against it (definitely unsolicited).

What I am driving at is that all these overacting gimmicks are too much already. The increase is necessary all right, but the overacting is not. It cannot be denied that the value of the peso against the dollar has gone down drastically since the concession agreement was signed. The dollar-denominated loans of the government water agency (Maynilad assumed 90 percent of the debts while Manila Water assumed only 10 percent) therefore have increased in peso equivalent. From August 1997 to December 2000, Maynilad had to pay P2.7 billion more to service these debts, according to Maynilad president Rafael Alunan. He added that a $400-million term loan did not materialize because of the Asian financial crisis. Maynilad, therefore, is strapped for cash and cannot implement its expansion program to service more communities.

So what do we do? Do we retain the old rates and be content with the water lack and continue buying from the water vendors? Or should we pay a little more to get more water from our faucets 24 hours a day? The choice is really up to the consumers. You want more water? Pay up.

Having said this, I would like to add that a 50 percent increase would be too much for the poor. Can't Maynilad recoup its foreign exchange losses in five to 10 years instead of only in one-and-a-half years?

Also, I noticed that water lost due to leaks and pilferage has increased since Maynilad took over. More than half of the water Maynilad gets from the MWSS is lost. From 1998 to 2000, its non-revenue lost water has risen from 372.46 million liters per day to 631.40 MLD. Where does the water agency get back the cost of this lost or stolen water? From paying customers. Why doesn't Maynilad reduce the water it loses daily so it doesn't have to charge its paying customers so much?

Modest proposals

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I READ a morbidly funny item last week. Philip Morris had just gotten into hot water for suggesting that smoking was good for the health of countries—or their economic health at least. This was so, it said, because smoking has been known to cause the early deaths of smokers. Consequently, it spared countries the need to provide for many of its citizens beyond a certain age, allowing it to make a killing (not its word) in social welfare savings. The savings could reach up to hundreds of millions of dollars.

The suggestion, a truly astounding one, naturally met with furious protest from various groups, notably those that have been fiercely critical of the sale of cigarettes, calling it legalized murder. One organization found it poetic irony that Philip Morris, which had just spent a fortune trying to sell itself as a responsible or newly enlightened company, would inadvertently show its true colors. The company's callous cynicism, it said, as shown by its bizarre economic theory, was entirely in keeping with its reason for being, which was to sell poison.

This is not unlike Jonathan Swift's famous satire, "A Modest Proposal." There, Swift suggested one surefire way by which Ireland might improve its economy overnight, which was by eating children. He wondered why economists hadn't thought of it before. Eating children, he said, almost immediately got rid of the excess population, excess as defined by homeless children who could not find work in Ireland's factories, and were compelled to beg in the streets. That spared the economy the need to provide for them. Additionally, children, however they are cooked, provided better nutritional value than their other counterparts in the animal kingdom.

Call the above callous cynicism or fierce satire, but they both say something rather profound about how completely confused we are, or have become, about means and ends. Philip Morris' suggestion may be astounding, but it is so only for being astoundingly honest, for being breathtakingly transparent. That is exactly how we think about the economy too. We do not think of it as a means to improve the plight of people. We think of people as a means to improve the plight of the economy. We are merely less honest about it, or about the methods we wish to employ, couching them in euphemisms or abstruse terminologies. But that is really what we mean: How to use people to improve the economy. The economy is the end, people are the means.

That is clear in the way government—and the business community—treat the poor in this country. The argument against wage hikes (and for price increases, chief of them oil and power) is deeply steeped in it. That argument of course is that wage hikes subvert the economy, which today in particular is being buffeted by a global recession and various unforeseen adversities. We raise the wages of workers now and the profits of entrepreneurs will fall, which will be bad for the economy overall. The workers simply have to tighten their belts and wait until things get better.

When things are better, however—and they have been so at various times in the past—the argument continues to be against wage hikes. That is so presumably because we cannot afford to be such spendthrifts after a spate of good fortune but must continue to scrimp and save to make the economy larger or to prepare for leaner times. The workers simply have to wait till the economy has grown so much bigger—and reached a "takeoff" point, for their turn to come. It goes without saying that the poor may not expect social welfare benefits at all. That is merely subsidizing them, which globalization reckons to be poor economics, which will only encourage them to be more mendicant and lazy.

The point when workers may finally get (real) wage hikes, or when the poor in general may get a break in life, never really comes. The Economy—the capital E indicating an alien and alienating distant presence—becomes an unreachable end, and humans a never-ending means. The image that leaps to mind is of human beings being thrown into a burning pit as an offering to a strange god.

I do not know, even from the completely cynical perspective of conscripting people for the economy and not the other way around, that it makes sense to do this, to deprive people at this scale. Most countries think of their people as their single biggest resource. Though cynical itself in that it regards people as the means and not the end of economic development, it at least has the merit of thinking of people as a cog in the machine that needs to be oiled and kept running efficiently. Or, in literal terms, as a workforce that needs to be fed, educated and kept in reasonably high spirits the better for them to be more productive. Or less hostile to the system that grinds them like, well, ground meat, to go by Swift's modest proposal.

It most certainly does not make sense from a moral perspective. The one that says the economy exists to uplift people and not people to uplift the economy.

We are quick to accuse the poor of stupidity, or irrationality, of acting in ways that are contrary to self-interest, such as when they take to the streets in anger and profess undying love for a crook like Erap. But is it more logical and reasonable and enlightened to keep even the most productive of them, who are the workers, in a state of utter wretchedness and expect them to behave otherwise?

The Makati Business Club has lately expressed pessimism over the current administration, as well they should, noting how little it has done to restore everyone's confidence. I know that many of them were ardent supporters of Edsa II, and I've read their letters in the e-mail damning corruption and suggesting ways by which we may improve the country. But they may also wish to ask themselves what exactly they have done in that respect. What sacrifices have they taken during hard times to make sure the rest of their countrymen do not take the brunt of hardship while they themselves get away unscathed? What generosity have they shown during good times to make sure the rest of their countrymen get to partake of plenitude even as they themselves reap the bulk of the harvest? Easy to see what government should do to improve the country. Easy to see what others should do to prevent the country from collapsing. Not so easy to see what one should do to accomplish those things.

You wonder in fact why the economists of this country do not just encourage smoking to improve this country's health. You wonder in fact why the businessmen of this country do not just suggest eating children to rid this country of poverty.

Joe de V would have been happy to be minority leader

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

I HAD never watched the election of a Speaker of the House of Representatives before, so yesterday's first session of the House which elected Pangasinan Rep. Joe de Venecia as Speaker proved most interesting. While the result of the speakership fight was a foregone conclusion unlike the election of the Senate president which was a cliff-hanger of sorts until Sen. Noli de Castro decided to vote for Franklin Drilon, still, because of the sheer size of the House, it was exciting.

Speaker De Venecia's 184-vote mandate as against LDP rival Carlos Padilla's 17 votes (and one abstention—Rep. Ronaldo Zamora's vote) was awesome. It was the largest majority vote for a Speaker in local legislative history. Moreover, in the parade of men who have held this post since the republic was formed, De Venecia was only the second House chief to be elected for three terms, thus ensuring him a niche in the chamber's annals. The only other Speaker to gain this distinction was Cornelio Villareal in the 1960s.

De Venecia bounced back to his old post with a vengeance. In 1992, he forged the "Rainbow Coalition" with seven political parties and some independents. In 2001 he formed the "Sunshine Coalition" with 14 political parties and one-third of the LDP that fought his candidacy. The LDP is now the minority party.

* * *

De Venecia's rebound reminds one of Richard Nixon, who was elected to the US presidency after he lost by hairline to John F. Kennedy. There was a time, about one and a half years after his defeat at the hands of Joseph Estrada in the 1998 presidential, when De Venecia's close friends and relatives were advising him not to run for the Senate so he wouldn't suffer the fate of his predecessor, Speaker Ramon Mitra, who lost in the Senate race after being clobbered by Fidel Ramos in the presidential elections. You'd be cheated in the Senate race, they told him. His friends and relatives urged him instead to run for the House in Pangasinan, so that hopefully, they said, he could go for the post of minority leader. Forget getting back the speakership, they advised him, Erap would never let you get it. De Venecia then made up his mind to get back his old seat, little realizing he'd land in the speakership again.

* * *

The talk everywhere it seems, in the government as well as in the private sector, is how to help alleviate the poverty of those of us who have been so marginalized. As I wrote this column yesterday, the newspapers were full of anticipation about what President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would say about the problem of poverty-alleviation. In fact, her State of the Nation Address has been billed by the INQUIRER as the "Sona of the Poor." Last Sunday evening when I heard Mass at our neighborhood church, the priest in his homily was talking about how the wealthier Filipinos could help their poorer brethren as a Christian duty.

In the face of all this emphasis on the alleviation of poverty, Congress cannot ignore the national clamor for a lasting solution. Let's hope that under the leadership of two "returnees," Senate President Franklin Drilon and Speaker Jose de Venecia, the two chambers of Congress will put their minds together and address the poverty problem with more than just perfunctory zeal. We hope they will not be distracted by grandstanding and controversies. De Venecia yesterday said the government is raising the counterpart fund of $2.5 billion mainly from natural gas earnings in order to be able to use the $10.5 billion locked in overseas development funds (ODF).

* * *

Every Sunday evening at 9:15, I join Cecile Guidote-Alvarez in her program, "Radio Balintataw," over dzRH, where we invite civic leaders to talk about their projects for the lowest-income sectors of society. I had proposed this to Cecile as our way of contributing to the national effort to eradicate poverty. In the less than two months that we have been inviting civic leaders to talk of their programs, we have discovered so many wonderful projects for the poor. By highlighting these private-sector efforts, we hope other groups will be encouraged to do their share for the less fortunate.

* * *

One of the programs we highlighted in Radio Balintataw was the five-year technical-vocational training being conducted by the Erda Technical-Vocational High School in Pandacan for the poorest students in Metro Manila. Erda Tech administrator Wilhelmina Martinez explained how the poor students are able to get jobs and help their parents right after graduation.

Another project we featured was the dual-tech training in hotel and restaurant courses for young women from poor families, being conducted by Punlaan School in San Juan, Metro Manila. We had for our guest Punlaan's cheerful directress, Luz Filmer, who told us how technical training and character and values formation by Punlaan help young women raise the quality of their lives as they are guaranteed good jobs in leading hotels and restaurants.

Another guest, civic leader Angie Abella, told us of her group's livelihood projects for the poor in Payatas. Then there was the indefatigable Melon Recto-Silverio, who continues her livelihood-generating projects in the poorer sections of Makati.

* * *

Since President Macapagal was scheduled to deliver her Sona yesterday, we thought of inviting to the program Secretary Teresita Quintos-Deles of the National Anti-Poverty Commission to enlighten us on the administration's anti-poverty strategy. The NAPC is in charge of formulating it and coordinating government's efforts among the various agencies involved. *Mukhang* hallmark *ng* Macapagal officials *ang hindi matakot sa* inclement weather: Ging Deles came to the station despite the rains that poured all afternoon Sunday.

Perhaps it ought to be mentioned here, too, that two weeks earlier, my husband invited Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez and Government Corporate Counsel Amado Valdez to visit some PNOC properties that are the subjects of legal disputes in Bataan, and the two officials came for the conference despite bad weather and their tight schedules. I guess that's what happens when one serves a pro-active President.

* * *

Deles, in fact, told us that six of the Cabinet members were joining the multi-sectoral march to the Batasan yesterday afternoon, as the President wanted them to dialogue with the demonstrators, a lot of them Estrada sympathizers as well as left-wing elements, on their demands. This way, said Deles, they could not say that government officials were enjoying the comforts of the Batasan while the people were out in the streets. Aside from Deles, the Cabinet members who were in the streets yesterday were Dinky Soliman of social welfare, Manuel Dayrit of health, Patricia Sto. Tomas of labor, Hernani Braganza of agrarian reform and Mike Defensor of housing, as well as Benjamin Abalos of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority. Deles emphasized that it's also good for the Cabinet members to be among the crowd, so that they could help negotiate with the police.

More about the NAPC's vision for poverty alleviation in my next column.

Powell unlikely to talk about My Lai

NEWS ANALYSIS

David Brunnstrom

MY LAI, Vietnam—When US Secretary of State Colin Powell comes to Hanoi this week, survivors of the Vietnam War's most notorious massacre would like him to spare them at least a thought. It will be Powell's first trip to Vietnam since serving in that war in the 1960s and he will be the most senior US official to have fought the country ever to return.

During his visit to attend a regional security forum, US officials say the former general plans to take time out to pay tribute to seven Americans killed in Vietnam in April searching for remains of US servicemen still listed as missing from the conflict. But he has no plans to visit My Lai, a village near the coast of central Vietnam, where soldiers of the same 11th Brigade of the Americal Division Powell served with killed, according to Vietnam, 504 civilians, mostly women and children, on March 16, 1968. The US army later put the toll at more than 300.

The massacre at My Lai, the worst committed by US forces in Vietnam, occurred 10 weeks before Powell returned to Vietnam to start his second tour during which, as a major, he served as the Americal's operations officer.

In his autobiography "My American Journey" Powell says he did not learn of the massacre until the autumn of 1969. However, he has been accused of failing to properly investigate a December 1968 letter from an 11th Brigade soldier, Tom Glen, describing murder and torture of civilians by US troops, which Powell was ordered to check out.

According to the 1992 book "Four Hours in My Lai" by British journalists Michael Bilton and Kevin Sim, Powell concluded in a memo in response to Glen's letter:

"Although there may be isolated cases of mistreatment of civilians and POWs, this by no means reflects the general attitude throughout the division.

"In direct refutation of this portrayal (by Glen) is the fact that relations between Americal soldiers and Vietnamese people are excellent."

Survivors of the massacre interviewed in My Lai recently said they were outraged by that statement, which Powell makes no mention of in his memoirs.

"It's rubbish for him to say relations between local people here and American soldiers were good," said 63-year-old Pham Thi Thuan, who lost six members of her family, including her father, sisters and nephews. "I was very angry to hear that. They killed people here—we are the survivors. Many people were killed. They even killed cattle, and destroyed trees. How can he say relations were good?"

Another survivor, 76-year-old Ha Thuy Quy, whose mother and children were killed, said she did not blame all Americans, but thought Powell should take the opportunity to apologize on behalf of his country and make amends.

"He should apologize," she said. "They killed innocent people, they were guilty...they sent troops here to kill innocent people, they were very guilty. Bombs and bullets destroyed our place. We have no schools...The Americans could give us some assistance. People are still poor and hungry, the Americans need to help them."

Pham Thanh Cong, who survived the massacre as an 11-year-old after being shielded from a grenade blast by relatives who were killed, now looks after a museum at the massacre site. He said he did not think Powell needed to make an apology.

"But he should think about what happened here...and perhaps he could do something to help with the upkeep of this site and to help some of the victims and their families, especially the ones living alone and who are disabled.

Briefing reporters in Washington on Friday, Powell said he expected a flood of emotions to hit him on his return to Vietnam. But he also said: "There are no ghosts within me that need exorcism".

He made no mention of My Lai, but in his memoir, he described it as "one of the darker chapters of American military history" and "an appalling example of much that had gone wrong in Vietnam".

Diplomats say Powell is highly unlikely to make any reference to My Lai in Vietnam, far less offer an apology, something not in line with US policy.

When former President Bill Clinton became the first US president to visit Vietnam since the war last November, he spoke of the shared pain of the past but offered no apology.

The Vietnamese government has skirted the issue, saying only that Powell would be welcome as a dialogue partner, just like any of the other foreign ministers attending the regional forum.

However, Larry Colburn, a former US helicopter gunner now living in Atlanta who was decorated as a hero by both the United States and Vietnam for helping to rescue victims from marauding soldiers during the massacre, told Reuters he wished Powell would address the My Lai issue.

Asked why, he said: "Just for respect." ***Reuters***

Elephants go begging in Bangkok

FEATURE

Orathai Sriring

BANGKOK—Late at night on a busy Bangkok street, a terrified female elephant roars in pain. Injured after being hit by a bus, the 22-year-old elephant lurches by the roadside. Her panicked handler, struggling to calm her, shouts for help.

"It's happened again," says veterinarian Alongkorn Mahannop, who rushes to the scene to look after the wounded animal.

Alongkorn, a veterinarian in Thailand's Royal Bureau, says road accidents are common for elephants brought into the city by their handlers in search of food and money. "This sort of thing is not a surprise. It happens all the time. I've seen many elephants hit by cars or with their legs stuck in big potholes here."

Alongkorn says that in June alone he treated 20 elephants in Bangkok for illness or injury. He says 15 elephants have been injured in road accidents so far this year, compared with around 20 last year.

Bangkok dwellers are no longer surprised to see elephants ambling through the streets with their handlers trying to sell passers-by bananas and vegetables to feed their charges with.

Experts say an estimated 2,500 wild elephants still roam the Thai jungles while another 2,000 are registered as tame or domesticated animals. Many are owned by impoverished handlers who, when times are hard, bring them into the capital, with its notorious pollution and traffic congestion. There the noble animals become beggars.

Their handlers make more money from those who believe elephants bring good luck. Some people pay mahouts to be allowed to walk under the elephants' belly three times, which is said to bring good fortune.

"It is so sad to see elephants begging for food," Alongkorn says.

The mahouts say they have no choice. "At home, we have no work, no money. If we don't come here, we will surely starve," explains 33-year-old Pong Malingam, who left his children behind in northeastern Surin province to come to Bangkok with his wife and his only asset, a bull elephant called Buaban. "At least, my elephant will have something to eat."

Pong says life in the Thai capital is not easy, especially for large animals trying to negotiate the busy streets. "We don't want to torture our animals doing this...they are not worth one or two baht each but over 300,000 ($6,500). But we just have no choice," he adds.

Pong and other mahouts make a living in Bangkok by selling 20-baht bunches of bananas and vegetables to passersby to feed the animals.

Pong has other moneyspinning hopes for his elephant, a young and strong bull: breeding. "I will breed elephants as we don't have many elephants left at the moment," he says. "My elephant can mate with about 40 or 50 cows a year, and more than half of these matings will be successful."

Pong says he will receive about 10,000 baht for allowing his bull to mate a cow, but only when a baby is born, which takes well over a year.

But many owners of tame elephants do not want their cows to breed since mothers cannot work while nursing. Most domesticated elephants are caught in the wild, rather than bred in captivity.

Mahouts say they earn about 200 to 400 baht a day by selling elephant foods, but much of this has to be spent paying off police. Officially, elephants are banned from the city.

In the heart of Bangkok, mahouts sleep in small tents, and work from early evening until after 2 a.m. when nightlife in the city begins to wind down.

"We all have a very harsh life here," one mahout says.

Elephants handlers say they want the government to help provide longer-term work for them.

Soraida Salwala, secretary-general of Friends of the Asian Elephant, says serious measures need to be taken. "I've urged the government to take a serious pro-active action on this. They have been discussing about this for years but nothing has improved," she adds. "Mahouts don't want to go back home as they can make good money here. I don't believe they don't have any money if they can buy an elephant worth as much as 300,000 baht."

Although the city authorities banned elephants last year, they soon began to creep back into the city.

"Elephants did not really go out of Bangkok, but roamed in its outskirts, so we did not see many of them in town for a while," she says. ***Reuters***

Enough!

YOUNGBLOOD

Katherine Rose A. Calingasan

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

EARLY one morning (well, early for a bum like me), I was awakened by the irritating sound of a jeepney backing into our garage. I say "our" because I shared the garage with an Iranian and her family. I was renting one of two houses in the compound. Unfortunately, the garage we shared ran the whole length of my entire house. Next to the dusty garage was my neighbors' front lawn, and farther down was the house they lived in.

I opened my eyes and wrinkled my nose in disgust. I could smell the pungent odor of exhaust fumes permeating the living room. I had started sleeping on an old mattress in the living room ever since the beginning of summer, unable to stand the stuffiness in the bedroom. This was the annoyance I had to suffer once a week (aside from the daily dose of car fumes that accompanied my breakfast):

First, a jeepney backed into the garage really slowly because the dirt road was narrow. Then a driver and his companion got off and began to load sacks of rice from neighbor's bodega in awkward rheumatic movements. After 40 sacks had been loaded, the vehicle would squeeze out of the garage, making it only on the third try to the narrow road and around the corner to who knows where. The neighbors were into this rice business.

I flicked my blanket off of me in the fashion of a matador completely stressed out, and opened the front door. A few strong words "requesting" the driver to turn off the damn engine flew out my mouth like a mantra. I had told them to shut the old thing up twice before already. They seemed never to get it.

Apparently the starter was broken this time. So I asked how the they started the damn engine in the first place. They said they hot-wired it. Couldn't you hot-wire it again? I asked. The guy turned around, got into the jeepney and positioned the monstrosity aslant, with its exhaust pipe pointing toward the lawn as though it would make a lot of difference.

I begged them for mercy, explaining that my lungs were being poisoned slowly each time they came. He got the message and parked the sulfur-spewing demon on the road. I closed the door, satisfied but still a bit pissed off.

They finished loading the sacks after 30 minutes, including interruptions by tricycles and cars that needed to pass through.

Meanwhile my sleep had been completely disrupted. I watched TV and tried to keep my cool until the vehicle drove away.

Insulted

That night the Iranian woman who was my neighbor came over to share with me a piece of her mind: I should have pleaded for mercy with them and not her customers. My house used to be noisy at night when my friends came over, causing her Filipino maid sleepless nights. I couldn't have everything the way I wanted just because the garage was on my side of the compound.

She only stopped when her husband ordered her: "Come inside now and stop talking to those people!" And then he proceeded to tell me what he thought of me and my friends.

Great! I was too slow in processing what they were saying and lost my chance to defend my actions. The next thing I knew I was closing the door behind me, close to tears after being treated like a child and insulted several times.

The woman had told me I should move to a place where I wouldn't have any neighbors. But she should be the one to move out of the Philippines and go back to Iran where she and her parents came from. Maybe I was wrong, but so were they. But we never got to resolve the issue. Perhaps both of us were afraid of the damage it might bring emotionally and materially.

What's with neighbors anyway? What was it that I really wanted to say?

It dawned on me that this Iranian neighbor had a good job and a nice house and a nice car, and, come to think of it, an attitude. So did her parents who have been living in this country for who knows how long. Our government has been feeding expatriates, like my neighbor, for decades now. It has allowed them to work here even while our own citizens cannot get jobs simply because there were too many of them. These expats live in comfortable homes while Filipinos live under bridges and on railroad tracks, ready to be swept off their feet, not by love but by a Bicol-bound train. We have Indian businessmen peddling bed sheets and umbrellas on Isuzu motorbikes. We have American, African, Nepalese, Bhutanese and Pakistani students studying in our leading universities because it's cheaper here, while our own students quit high school to become janitors, maids (with foreign employers right here), and food servers, abandoning hope of earning college degrees. They come here to bribe our women and seduce our men with their exotic features.

Thinking about all this infuriated me. Due to the unfairness I experienced from this foreigner who lived next door, I came to think about the unfairness other Filipinos are forced to endure.

Citizens first

I have lived a few years in Abu Dhabi. Being an open country, a lot of foreigners live there. While there I learned that every citizen who had the skills, the intelligence or the education was assured of a high-paying job and a mansion and treated with respect. The government made sure to provide for its people first before providing for foreigners who came to work there, to vacation there or to find safety there. The citizens were the No. 1 priority and their well-being was always taken into consideration before the welfare of expatriates.

I learned to act with tact and to be polite there, making sure that I didn't offend any of the locals because I was a guest in their country. I knew that I didn't have the same rights as they had.

So what's the point of my story? It's really simple: As a guest in my country, my neighbors ought to behave. I don't have to take crap from a foreigner, including the exhaust fumes I have become accustomed to having for breakfast. There are times when I must put my foot down and say, "Wait a minute, I live here. This patch of earth is mine."

The experience taught me that I don't have to bow my head so low to the expats living off my country's resources whether they be black, yellow, or white. It reminded me that they should be the one who ought to bow down low and show us a little respect. I have every reason to assert my rights because I am Filipino, and they are not.

Katherine Rose A. Calingasan, 21, is a Communication Arts senior at the University of the Philippines, Los Baños.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

THEY SAID

Wage policy

"This government, like its predecessor, maintains a policy that workers' wage and benefits must remain nailed to the basement floor so that it can attract foreign investors to the country."

—Sammy Malunes, spokesperson of the Kilusang Mayo Uno

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Another monopoly in the making

THE NEWS breaking that Cosmos Bottling Corp. is up for grabs is very disappointing, to say the least. Here is a homegrown brand which has broken into the highly competitive softdrink industry and has, in fact, cornered around 30 percent of the market, and now it may end up as a success story gone awry.

Gaining control of Cosmos will effectively give Coca-Cola a virtual monopoly of the softdrink industry in the Philippines. While we have come to love Coke in the Philippines, the rise of Pop Cola and Sarsi as strong brands attests to the fact that we Filipinos also have it in us to come up with a product that can hold its own against multinational giants like Coke.

If the reported buy-out of Cosmos happens, we Filipinos will be facing another monopoly. Coke will only love Coke. Eventually, they will kill Pop Cola and Sarsi because their only concern is to ensure that they have the Filipino softdrink market as a whole.

This will not be the first time it happens. Such a scenario has actually taken place in India where Coke took control of a very popular local brand, which was eventually phased out of the market.

Monopolies have already dictated to us what cars to buy, what television programs to watch, what beer to drink, and even when and where to buy these things. Shouldn't we, at the very least preserve the right to choose what softdrink to drink?—**MYLENE BILLEDO, Philand Drive, Tandang Sora, Quezon City**

LETTERS

Tax exemption for homes

THE THOUSANDS of retirees who receive SSS and GSIS pensions as low as P2,000 a month should support Senate Bill No. 829 which seeks to exempt family homes from real estate tax authored by Senate President Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr.

Although no sensible senator or representative will oppose this bill, these retirees should still write all the senators and their respective congressional representative to remind them to fast-track its enactment.—**T.B. ABAYAN, 13-A Banning St., North Fairview, Quezon City**

Art by itself

EDUARDO A. Morato's article, "Use principles of art in management" is a work of art by itself. Being a corporate manager, I was quite taken by his gem of an article wherein he espouses the role of a manager as an artist.

The qualities and expectations of the real manager-artist are demanding indeed but he can always be guided by the true artist above. Thank you, Mr. Morato, for an incisive and scintillating piece.—**MARILYNN S.L. CAMACHO, Prudential Life Plans Inc., Baguio City**

Clarifications on MRT issues

WE were able to follow closely the three-part special report of Clarissa S. Batino last July 16, 17 and 18 that dealt with guarantees related to the financing of major projects given by the Ramos administration. The MRT III was included in the mentioned projects that benefited from these guarantees.

Let me make some exceptions to some supposed findings made by the writer.

It was unfairly made to appear that the rail project was an original BOT project. Let me point out that from the start, even with the initial contract in 1991 between the Department of Transportation and Communications and the Levin group, the original proponent of the rail project, the scheme that was already adopted was the Build-Lease-Transfer (BLT) arrangement and this has been maintained until now. We are providing some relevant pages of the contract that support what is being asserted here.

There was even a statement in the report saying that the Commission on Audit was looking into the contract to determine if it was onerous. We are proud to state that the contract for the rail project can be considered as a document that had already passed scrutiny by all the branches of the government: executive, legislative and judiciary. It is noteworthy that the contract was reviewed by the DOTC, Neda, Office of the President, the Senate blue ribbon committee. It was even brought to the Supreme Court and docketed as Tatad vs. Garcia (G.R. No. 114222). The findings or decisions of these offices never made any statement to support any allusion to the contract being onerous.

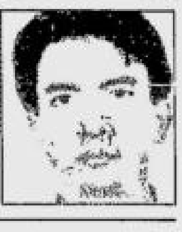
Batino also discussed access to the MRT III rail system. The DOTC and the Metro Rail Transit Corp. have already started the construction work for the installation of additional elevators and external escalators. These access equipment will complement existing structures being used in accessing into the rail system. This is in addition to the required facilities that have already been installed which are specifically intended for the use of persons with disabilities and the elderly.

It is admitted that a number of the stations of the MRT III are not located where they may be nearer to intersections in order that there shall be an effective intermodal transport integration. During the design stage of the project, the planners who were seeking the best location for the stations were restricted by technical constraints brought about by existing structures (infrastructure and buildings) near intersections and to insist on putting these stations where they may ideally be located will involve an enormous amount for right-of-way acquisition.—**MARIO C. MIRANDA, project director, DOTC-MRT III project management office, MRT III Depot Building, Edsa corner North Avenue, Quezon City**

Racism and crime

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan



THE MURDER of internationally renowned musician Tadao Hayashi was all we needed to further damage our international image. Details about Hayashi's murder remain sketchy but the crime should alert us to the increasing number of violent incidents directed against foreigners, or people perceived to be "foreign."

I refer here to a wide range of incidents, from the occasional "incidents" against tourists and visitors (including now, Hayashi) to the Abu Sayyaf's penchant for kidnapping Westerners. The trend is not limited to Filipinos at home. Overseas, we shouldn't forget too the less publicized case in New Jersey of two Filipino-Americans who beat to death a policeman, a Caucasian.

I've zeroed in on the violence directed against foreigners because it allows us to question one myth, that of Filipino hospitality. The fact is that our hospitality has always been selective. I've seen it all too often among Filipino plane stewards and stewardesses with the change in their facial expressions as they respond to requests: the ever smiling, ever gracious Asian responding to a Caucasian's request, changing dramatically to a scowl as the next passenger, a Filipino, makes a similar request. I've even seen stewardesses returning with the glass of water for the Caucasian and conveniently "forgetting" the one for the Filipino.

There was always a racist element to this selective hospitality. Even among "foreigners" that hospitality has been selective: the best treatment going to Caucasians (or people perceived to be Caucasian), with less hospitality exhibited as the skin color darkens. (An exception has been the Arabs, who despite their fair skin still gets discriminated against mainly because they are Muslim.)

This selective hospitality has been based on an opportunism, a perception of potential benefits from our "hospitality": a larger tip, a useful connection for the future. If in fact a friendship develops, expectations may grow about the foreigner helping out, and if the expectations are not met, the relationship sours, sometimes leading to violence.

I sense, too, that over the years, there has been a growing cynicism toward foreigners in general, that they are all "*mayaman*" (rich) and are there to be used. It's a perverse sense of entitlement, sometimes fueled by distorted nationalism: these foreigners exploit us therefore we should use them as well.

A few years back, Caroline Hau, a Chinese-Filipino, delivered an incisive paper at a conference of the Association for Asian Studies where she looked at the kidnapping of Chinese-Filipinos, a group seen by many Filipinos as "foreigners." She gave the whole context of local ethnic Chinese being very visible in business dealings, with the perception that they are exploitative. The irony then was that the Chinese, seen as converting everything and everyone into commodities, now find their own bodies converted into commodities, i.e., their worth measured by the potential ransom money they can bring in.

A similar "logic" operates with the Abu Sayyaf, whose hostages are not just "foreigners" but represent all that is wrong in the world: white colonialism, Christianity. The motives for kidnapping expand so that it is no longer just an act of retaliation but a way of asserting one's "superiority" (hey look, we can take these *puti*, these "whites" any time, anywhere).

The potential for violence is often historically determined. The kidnappings of local Chinese (and now, Singaporeans) are extensions of a long and often bloody history of animosity against the Chinese in the Philippines, one that often makes it easier for kidnappers to just murder their victims after ransom is paid.

Resentment of the "*puti*" is more restrained, partly the result of a historical memory of their brutal superiority during colonial times. But note that when the resentment spills over, it can be brutal, as it happened in New Jersey. The murdered policeman was a neighbor of the Filipinos. The "*puti*" policeman came over to ask the Filipinos, who were having a party, asking them to quiet down. This so enraged the two Filipinos—and I can imagine what they were thinking, "Who is this '*tangnang puti* to tell us what to do?"—that they ganged up on him, literally beating him to death.

What to do about this situation? I have no short-term solutions but definitely, we need to get young people to be more introspective about our feelings toward "foreigners." There is a folk culture out there with its own racial categories and stereotyping. Some of these "races"—the *Intsik, Hapon, Kano, Arabo*—share a common perceived attribute of "*mayaman*." Moreover, the perception of wealth overlaps with a more specific attribute that "explains" that wealth: for the *Intsik, kapitalista*, for the *Hapon*, Yakuza, for the *Kano, imperialista*, for the *Arabo*, employer of overseas contract workers (plus "Muslim" thrown in for good measure).

Beneath all this is a sense of powerlessness, a resentment of the world: why must our nurses and midwives end up having to work as nannies for that Singaporean or Hong Kong *Intsik* or that *Arabo*, why must our women go off to Japan to work as "GROs"? It is a volatile situation, always in danger of being set off by the slightest provocation. Last year, I was with a seaman in Subic and a drunken American came by accusing him of being in the way. The seaman was furious and all ready to brawl. He controlled himself but muttered, "I take this all the time from the *puti* when we're overseas. I don't need to take this in my own home country."

No doubt, there's much more to all this than racial relations. I worry, for example, about the way our society is becoming more brutalized, about the way lives become devalued, faster than the peso, which makes it so much easier to kidnap, to kill, for a few more pesos. But for today, let's just think about our racism, and how our poverty and powerlessness fuel that racism, sometimes to the point of murder.

* * *

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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

FRENETIC ETNA REUTERS

Mount Etna's crater erupts lava and rocks on the island of Sicily during the first hours of July 22. The mayor of Nicolosi town threatened by lava from Etna said he would announce to the world that his community had been abandoned unless higher authorities intervened with emergency help.

- **World clinches climate deal**
- **No breakthrough on missile defense–Putin**
- **Former Beatle Harrison expects to die soon**

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World clinches climate agreement

BONN, Germany—The world's environment ministers clinched a historic last-minute deal in Germany yesterday that should force industrial powers to cut emissions of the industrial greenhouse gases blamed for global warming.

An all-night marathon right on deadline secured agreement in Bonn crucially from Japan, as well as Canada, Russia and others, for a compromise agreement promoted by the European Union that should allow the 1997 Kyoto Protocol to come into force.

Amid groggy smiles and genuine relief, there was annoyance, however, that US President George W. Bush had already rejected any deal, saying the world's biggest polluter could not afford emissions cuts that would hurt its economy.

"It's a brilliant day for the environment," British Environment Minister Michael Meacher said.

"It's a huge leap to have achieved a result on this very complex international negotiation. It's a huge relief."

Belgian Energy Minister Olivier Deleuze, who led the European Union's negotiating effort, criticized the United States for staying out of the deal but said the final compromise, which included substantial European concessions to Japan in particular, was better than nothing.

"It shows that George Bush is totally isolated in the climate debate," said Greenpeace climate activist Bill Hare.

"It is the long-awaited second step in the implementation of the Kyoto protocol. We are calling on Japan to ratify it now."

Applause rang out in the room where ministers had bargained throughout the night as the deal was struck.

Ministers from 185 countries meeting at the United Nations-sponsored talks had feared that a second failure, following the collapse of a summit at The Hague in November, could have killed off the Kyoto accord.

That, environmental campaigners said, would have meant dangerous delay in slowing down the greenhouse effect, in which polluting gases are believed to be trapping the sun's heat on Earth, melting polar ice, raising sea levels and creating more extremes of weather.

"We have finalized the rescue operation. We have rescued the Kyoto protocol. It is a major achievement because we live with this for many years to come," EU Environment Commissioner Margot Wallstrom said.

Some of the countries present might yet reject the plan at a plenary session. But what was vital was that the key industrial powers had settled their differences.

"So long as we get success in the plenary in the next hour we have delivered probably the most comprehensive and difficult agreement in human history," an elated New Zealand delegation chief Peter Hodgson told reporters.

A spokesperson for Deleuze said Japan had secured a special exemption to overcome its hesitations about mechanisms for legally enforcing the protocol. Japan had demanded a softer approach on compliance mechanisms than the European Union. *Reuters*

Israel weighs CIA monitors for truce

JERUSALEM—Israel yesterday toyed with a formula to let the US Central Intelligence Agency oversee a truce with the Palestinians after Group of Eight leaders urged Israel to allow in monitors to prevent more bloodshed.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres suggested Israel might agree to CIA monitors to oversee a truce drawn up by the intelligence agency's Director George Tenet last month, along with an internationally backed framework for renewing peace talks.

The ceasefire has been derailed by almost daily bloodshed between the sides since it was forged on June 13 with the hope of ending 10 months of fighting in which more than 600 people have been killed.

At least 490 Palestinians, 128 Israelis and 13 Israeli Arabs have been killed since Palestinians erupted in revolt in September in the wake of stalled peace negotiations.

Israeli political sources said Israel had agreed to the deployment of as many as 10 CIA officers to monitor the ceasefire, but still opposed a Palestinian demand for the deployment of international observers or peacekeepers.

"We've never been against the CIA bringing a few more monitors for the purpose of its work. This started long before we talked about an international force or not," Peres told Channel One television on Sunday night.

The political sources said it was not clear if the United States would agree to allow the CIA to raise its already prominent role in the conflict.

Israeli security forces remained on high alert yesterday after a Palestinian bomber was arrested shortly before he was due to strap a device made up of half a dozen pipe bombs to his body and detonate it in the northern city of Haifa.

Alerted to a possible bombing in Haifa, police set up roadblocks around the city and found the man before he could carry out the attack. During questioning he lead them to the bomb which was hidden in an apartment building. *Reuters*

'PAPA' EVERYWHERE REUTERS

Surrounded by past winners, Danny Woods (center) of Buckeye Lake, Ohio, cradles a bust of Ernest Hemingway July 21 after he bested 117 other contestants at the annual "Papa" Hemingway Look-Alike Contest at Sloppy Joe's Bar in Key West, Florida.

G8 leaders say rioters eclipsed help for poor

GENOA, Italy—World leaders wrapped up a summit in the Italian port of Genoa complaining their achievements for the poor were drowned out by riots in which a demonstrator was shot dead.

The Group of Eight powers say violence has overshadowed their launch of a $1.3-billion global fund to fight AIDS and a commitment to help lift Africa out of poverty.

"For the first time we have actually got a positive, definitive process and plan for dealing with the problems of Africa and yet you measure the amount of coverage for protests and Africa, it would have been a ratio of 10 to one in favor of the riots," British Prime Minister Tony Blair said.

"The world has gone mad when that is the case."

The leaders conceded their summits were oversized.

"It has become a very, very big thing. It is getting out of control," said Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, who is to host next year's G8 summit from June 26-28 in the Rocky Mountain resort of Kananaskis in the Canadian province of Alberta.

G8 delegations, now numbering up to 900 people, would be slashed to a maximum 35 each, he said. "If you want to come, bring a sleeping bag."

But the leaders refused to abandon future summit meetings in the face of violence.

"I am sorry there were some people hurt but we have to meet," said a determined Chretien.

"We are discussing some very serious problems," he said at the end of the three-day meeting here, where streets littered with smashed glass are dotted with looted stores.

"If the anarchists want to destroy democracy, we will not let them succeed," Chretien added. *AFP*

Putin: No breakthrough on missile defense

MOSCOW—Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday said he failed to reach a breakthrough during his talks on missile defense with US counterpart George W. Bush, but still noted some progress in the meeting.

"Of course there was no major breakthrough," Interfax quoted Putin as saying.

"We (Russia) reaffirmed our support for the 1972 ABM (anti-ballistic missile) agreement. At the same time, there is movement forward," he added in reference to his Sunday meeting with Bush in Genoa, Italy.

Putin and Bush agreed to link negotiations over controversial US missile defense plans with an agreement over mutual bilateral nuclear warhead reductions.

"We are interested in, and are able to make steady progress toward the elimination of offensive weapons," RIA Novosti quoted Putin as saying.

He added that "we think that it is right" to link negotiations over nuclear disarmament and the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, which in its current form bans Washington's mooted missile defense system.

Putin added that more negotiations were possible over the issue when he meets with Bush's national security advisor Condoleezza Rice on Thursday.

Such talks will "play a positive role in solving all difficult questions," said Putin.

On Wednesday, Rice is also due to meet with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov and Russian security council secretary Vladimir Rushailo.

Following the conclusion Sunday of a three-day G8 summit, Putin and Bush agreed to link Washington's plans to build a missile defense to a discussion of cutting both sides' nuclear arsenals.

"The offensive arms and issue of defensive arms will be discussed as a set," Putin told reporters Sunday.

"The two go hand-in-hand," said Bush, who wants Moscow to agree to scrap the 1972 ABM treaty and thus free Washington's hands to deploy a shield against attacks from so-called "rogue states" such as North Korea or Iran. *AFP*

US President George W. Bush (right) and Russian President Vladimir Putin stress a point before the start of a meeting between Russian and American delegations at the end of the G8 summit in Genoa July 22. REUTERS

Cosa Nostra boss slips easily past probers

PALERMO, Sicily—Families in practically every corner of Sicily are willing to give Bernardo Provenzano a clean bed, a hot meal and lots of respect.

Then, long before the searing sun rises high over the island, the honored guest slips away. The fugitive's hosts don't exactly put a sign out front saying, "The boss of bosses slept here."

Sometimes, investigators add, the families can only guess at the identity of a man they are asked to shelter as a sign of their loyalty to Cosa Nostra.

On the run since 1963, the reputed head of Sicily's Mafia continues to frustrate investigators, thanks largely, they say, to his ability to choose his contacts well and his willingness to constantly change hiding places, even at the expense of not seeing his wife and two sons for almost a decade now.

No one on the side of the law even knows what the 68-year-old Provenzano looks like these days. Plastic surgery, a pair of glasses or maybe a beard could have drastically changed the police's computer-generated image of him. It shows a man with a broad nose, high forehead and small, intense eyes.

The only photo police have dates from when he was a young man in Corleone.

"Theoretically, if I met him and he asked me directions, I certainly wouldn't know how to recognize him," Palermo's chief prosecutor, Piero Grasso, says in a new book, "The Invisible Mafia."

While virtually all of his fellow mob chieftains have been captured during Italy's stepped-up war against the Mafia over the last decade, Provenzano is believed to be quietly going about his business, which includes transforming Cosa Nostra to make it much harder to fight.

"I'd say that the Mafia has never before felt so strong as in this moment," Grasso says in his book.

That's a bitter admission for anti-Mafia fighters who scored several stunning successes in the 1990s, for example arresting mob kingpin Salvatore "Toto" Riina after 23 years as a fugitive.

Riina, then reputed to be the "boss of bosses," was captured in Palermo a few months after car bombs killed the state's two top Mafia investigators, prosecutors Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino. *AP*

Burundi foils coup attempt, minister says

BUJUMBURA—Burundi authorities put down an attempted coup d'etat overnight, the defense minister announced yesterday on national radio.

A military source said at least two soldiers were killed during the coup attempt and the capital's military commander, Lieut. Col. Fabien Ndagijimana, wounded.

Loyalist forces were restoring order, Defense Minister General Cyrille Ndayirukiye said. Gunshots and grenade explosions were heard in several areas of the capital through the night.

The announcement came as African heads of state prepared to meet in Arusha, Tanzania, to set the seal on an 18-month transitional presidency for Pierre Buyoya under Burundi's peace plan.

Buyoya, a Tutsi, is to hand over to a Hutu president for the second 18 months of the transition period, although several signatories to the peace plan now oppose Buyoya's staying on in power in Burundi, where civil war has killed more than 200,000 people, mostly civilians, since 1983. *AFP*

GEORGE SAYS HE'S NEAR DEATH REUTERS

Former Beatle George Harrison, shown in this May 6, 1998 file photo arriving at London's High Court, admitted July 22 that he expected to die soon from cancer, the group's former producer George Martin was quoted on Sunday as saying. The 58-year-old musician has been treated for a brain tumor at a clinic in Switzerland, having already undergone an operation for lung cancer earlier this year.

Asean told: Carry out reforms or lose

SINGAPORE—Members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations risk losing competitiveness and investor confidence if they don't carry through painful structural reforms, Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said in Singapore yesterday.

These reforms have taken on a greater sense of urgency especially after the 1997-98 Asian crisis and China's pending entry into the World Trade Organization, Downer said while on a stopover en route to Hanoi where he will be attending the Asean Regional Forum.

Otherwise, it would be difficult for the 10-member regional grouping to become an effective bloc capable of building economic prosperity for the region's 500 million people in the era of globalization, Downer said.

"Commitment to structural reforms must be translated into action, no matter how painful that may be," he said.

"Those who implement reforms are restoring not only their competitiveness, but international confidence."

"In so doing, they boost the ability of Asean as a whole to compete successfully for capital inflows."

Asean's image as an economically vibrant group was thrown into doubt in the aftermath of the 1997-98 crisis while that of China has risen substantially, Downer said.

Already, China was drawing a lot of foreign investments that used to head Asean's way, he said.

"The trouble with Asean is that it doesn't have a sufficient reputation for being economically progressive at the moment, yet it had the history of being economically progressive," Downer said. *AFP*

Aussie wakes up in bed with crocodile

BRISBANE, Australia—An Australian camping by a river in far north Queensland awoke to discover he was sharing his bed with a large crocodile, officials here said yesterday.

The croc, which was lying across his chest, then tried to drag the 36-year-old man into the water. But he escaped with the help of a friend.

The man, who had been camping by the North Kennedy River, was recovering in Cairns Base Hospital yesterday after being treated for nothing more than bites to his right wrist.

The incident happened on Saturday morning at Hanns Crossing in the Lakefield National Park, north-west of Cooktown on Cape York Peninsula.

"Two men were sleeping at their campsite about 15 meters from the water's edge at Hann Crossing on Saturday morning when one was awoken by something heavy across his chest," Environment Minister Dean Wells said.

"The man yelled to his friend and the crocodile seized his wrist and tried to drag him toward the water. Fortunately, the crocodile let the man go and they were able to get clear of the animal." *AFP*

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Across the NATION

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon will have rains and gusty winds and the coastal waters of these areas will be moderate to rough. The Western section of Luzon will have rains while the rest of the country will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 20° Lo 14°
Tuguegarao	Rains	Hi 29° Lo 21°
Laoag	Rains	Hi 28° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 28° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Calapan	Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Roxas	Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 21°
Davao	Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/07/24/01

ROUNDUP

2 killed in mishap

ILAGAN, Isabela—Two persons were killed and two others were hurt Thursday when a trailer truck rammed a van along the national highway in Reina Mercedes town, police said. Killed were Cpl. Benedicto de la Cruz, a member of the 5th Infantry Division's military police and Marcelina Fabro of Gamu town. The truck driver, Amador Racquel, surrendered to police in Cauayan City. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

PMA gets fish breeders

BAGUIO CITY—As part of the income and livelihood program of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Cordillera gave 15 aquarium sets and ornamental fish breeders to representatives of the Philippine Military Academy. This came after a three-day seminar on fish breeding at the National Integrated Fisheries Technology Development Center in Dagupan City.

PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Farmer, soldier charged

SAN AGUSTIN, Isabela—A farmer was charged with parricide for killing his brother after a quarrel. Police said Ritchie Briones shot and killed his older brother Leonardo during a drinking spree in their house last week. In Roxas town, a soldier was also charged with homicide after shooting to death a fellow soldier over an argument. Sgt. Hector Bagunu of Gattaran town killed Cpl. Wilson Leal of Luna, Apayao, while they were riding in a bus on their way to their camp. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Agui foundation launched

TUGUEGARAO CITY—A foundation in honor of slain Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo was launched at the St. Peter's Cathedral here Saturday. Gov. Edgar Lara and Doña Carmen Carag led about 1,000 residents here in launching the Aguinaldo Foundation Inc. The foundation would finance scholarships for poor students, livelihood projects, cooperatives and loans for tricycles for poor unemployed residents. New People's Army assassins killed Aguinaldo near his house here on June 12.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Vizcaya in calamity state

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The provincial board of Nueva Vizcaya on July 16 declared the province under a state of calamity after losses due to Typhoon "Feria" reached P98.6 million. A report released by the provincial disaster management council said Feria's strong winds and rains destroyed P56-million worth of roads and bridges, P24.9-million worth of irrigation canals and P17.7-million worth of livestock and farm products. With the province under a state of calamity, the release of funds for typhoon victims and rehabilitation of damaged infrastructures would be hastened.

Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Ghost employees probed

SANTIAGO CITY—The city government is looking into reports that ghost employees were hired during the one-and-a-half year term of former Mayor Amelita Navarro. Antonio Santos, city human resource management officer, said his office is retrieving papers that could show the alleged employment of ghost employees since Navarro assumed the mayoral post in 1999. Navarro said there were no ghost employees during her administration. She described these reports as a ploy to discredit her administration.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Blasts hit 2 buses

DAVAO CITY—Two simultaneous explosions rocked two buses of the Yellow Bus Line Company in the firm's compound along Ma-a Road here Friday at dawn. No one was reported hurt. Police said terrorists were not behind the attack. Police said those who planted the bombs could be disgruntled workers of the bus firm. The bombs were made of dynamites. Two parked buses were damaged.

Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Job plan proposed

FORMER senator Ernesto F. Herrera recently urged President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to call for an inventory of idle government lands and suggested that these be leased to qualified people's organizations and cooperatives so the lands could become agriculturally productive. "The time calls for creative measures to boost economic activity in the country, and this means all available public assets must be used to keep the economy afloat," said Herrera who used to chair the Senate committee on labor and employment. Herrera's suggestion is just one of a package of "fast-break" measures which he proposed in a letter to the President. The other proposals include a joint effort by the Department of Labor and Employment and the Department of Foreign Affairs to look for expanding foreign labor markets for OFWs and a community employment program that would be tied up to the government's budget for infrastructure building. "These 'fast-break' measures are intended to create emergency jobs, give people some hope during this investment drought, even as we try to institute those 'deep' reforms that are really needed by the economy to recover," Herrera said in a statement.

Gunmen seize 11-year-old son of trader in Cebu City

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Kathy I. Navarro
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Two motorcycle-riding men abducted an 11-year-old son of a Filipino-Chinese businessman here while the child was on his way to school yesterday morning.

Ryan James Yu, a Grade 5 pupil of St. Francis de Assisi, was walking with the family helper along Friendship Street in Peace Valley when he was snatched by two armed suspects about 7 a.m.

Based on police investigation, the abduction happened 100 meters from Ryan James' house in Green Valley Subdivision at the Capitol Site and about 50 meters from his school in Peace Valley, Barangay Lahug.

Reports said the suspects pistol-whipped the boy and then brought him to Barangay Sudlon where a white Kia Pride car was waiting.

The suspects, with the boy, boarded the car and sped off toward the north.

This was the first major kidnapping incident in Cebu City in three years. The last was in October 1998 when a kidnapping syndicate abducted Reagan King, whose family owns a heavy equipment company. He was rescued by the now defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force but after the family had paid ransom.

Senior Supt. Hiram Binatiro, Cebu City police chief, said police have yet to establish if yesterday's abduction was a kidnap-for-ransom case.

He said police were looking into other possible angles such as vendetta by the enemies of the Yu family and a reported conflict between the Yu couple.

"The mother is cooperating (with the police) but (she) is withholding some important information," Binatiro told a press conference yesterday.

Ryan James is the only son of the Filipino-Chinese businessman Ronnie and his wife, Zenia. The couple has a lending business and is into real estate.

John Vero, the Yu family lawyer, said the suspects had called the victim's parents in their house in Green Valley, just a few hours after the kidnapping.

But he said the suspects did not demand any ransom but merely asked why there were many people in the family residence.

Vero denied reports that the kidnapping was linked to Ronnie's alleged demand for custody of Ryan James after the couple had reportedly separated.

He said the Yu couple had not broken up. It appeared that the couple separated because they own several houses and pieces of property because of the family's real estate business, he added.

Binatiro said that on June 24, two men on board a white car beat up Ronnie just outside his house in Horseshoe Drive in Barangay Banawa.

Nothing was taken from Ronnie who did not report the attack to the police, he added.

Binatiro said they were looking into a possible link between the June 24 attack on Ronnie and the kidnapping of Ronnie's son yesterday.

Vero, however, said about P120,000 was taken from Ronnie during the June 24 attack. His client chose not to report the robbery to the police out of fear that the suspects might get back at him.

Police reports said the boy and the helper, Joel Concepcion, were walking toward the school when they were waylaid by the suspects.

The motorcycle driver, who was wearing a helmet, pointed a gun at Concepcion while his companion, with dark sunglasses, was forcing the boy to board the motorcycle.

When the boy resisted, the suspect pistol-whipped Ryan James in the head.

The motorcycle then fled to Barangay Sudlon where a white Kia Pride was waiting.

A witness said the boy was unconscious when he was loaded into the car. At first he thought that Ryan James was a victim of a vehicular accident because the boy's head was soaked in blood, the witness said.

3 dead as dengue sweeps Laguna

SAN PABLO CITY—The number of dengue victims in Laguna province since January has reached 139, including three persons who have died of the disease, the Department of Health Provincial Dengue Coordinator's Office here disclosed.

Evelyn Ramos of the DoH also cited San Pablo City as having the highest number of victims in the province.

Dr. Dina Mendoza, San Pablo City dengue control coordinator, has listed a total of 103 dengue victims in the area during the six-month period.

Nimrod Villanueva, a rural health physician in Region IV, advised households to take precautionary measures by taking a round-the-clock habit of cleaning their surroundings and destroying breeding areas to avoid the dreaded disease.

Nationwide, the DOH reported 4,189 victims of dengue, with 38 persons dead from January to June this year.

DOH Secretary Manuel Dayrit said these figures are higher compared to that of last year.

"The present figures are expected to rise since the disease usually thrives during rainy days," Dayrit said.

Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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19 jailed for protesting poll results

By Cynthia A. Borgueta
PDI Visayas Bureau

CATBALOGAN, Samar—A mayoral candidate and 18 members of the partylist group Bayan Muna are languishing in the provincial jail after a town mayor charged them with sedition for putting up a barricade in front of the municipal hall on May 16.

The 19 gave themselves up to police on July 11 after receiving a copy of warrants for their arrest issued by Judge Ofelia Llosa of the Hinabangan-Calbiga Municipal Circuit Court.

Police first detained them at the Hinabangan police station but moved them to the Catbalogan provincial jail on July 20.

Police expressed fears that the companions of the 19 detainees might rescue them from the police station.

The 19 were among the 47 persons charged with sedition by Hinabangan Mayor Victor Tinay for putting up a barricade on May 16, preventing municipal officials from entering the town hall.

They are Jaime Lobres, Tinay's rival in the mayoral race; and Bayan Muna members Shirley Bohol, Sixto Elizan, Victor Mabonga, Domingo Abayare, Felix Quimenales, Rodrigo Nablo, Antonio Bacaycay, Guillermo Padernal, Quirina Obor, Gregorio Navidad, Prudencio Adobo, Jesus Abaigar, Juan Abarracoso, Edgardo Moral, Alfredo Cumpio, Juan Abadiano, Rolando Gadin Jr. and Domingo Bacaycay.

They barricaded the municipal hall to protest Tinay's victory in the May 14 elections, claiming that Tinay cheated.

Bohol told the INQUIRER that they decided to surrender "because we just want to air our sentiments."

ARMM expansion faces tough test

COTABATO CITY—The Aug. 14 plebiscite on the proposed expansion of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao is barely a month away but residents in the areas that were recommended to become part of the region appear to be not enthusiastic about it.

"What is it to us? Will joining the ARMM make us more developed and progressive?" asked Koronadal City Mayor Fernando Miguel.

Reelected Gov. Pax Mangudadatu of Sultan Kudarat has a similar concern. "I want the development of my province to continue under the present state of governance."

Mangudadatu said the current four-province ARMM has been slow in its development despite having an annual budget bigger than that of the other regions in the country.

He said he would campaign for the exclusion of Sultan Kudarat from the ARMM.

Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema said he would allow his constituents to decide according to their conscience.

Sema, a member of the 15-member executive council of the Moro National Liberation Front, said he supports the plebiscite for the expansion of the ARMM because it is provided for in the government-MNLF peace agreement signed in 1996.

He said the national government should already start a massive information campaign on the region's expansion. The plebiscite will be held in 15 provinces and 14 cities in Mindanao.

The provinces are Palawan, Basilan, Tawi-tawi, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga Sibugay, Zamboanga del Sur, Sulu, Davao del Sur, South Cotabato, Sarangani, North Cotabato, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao while among the cities are Puerto Princesa, Isabela, Dapitan, Dipolog, Zamboanga, Pagadian, Digos, General Santos, Koronadal, Kidapawan, Iligan, Tacurong and Cotabato.

Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Be transparent in aid, gov't told

COTABATO CITY—Non-government organizations that were involved in helping families displaced by last year's war in Mindanao back on their feet have urged the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to be transparent in their relief operations.

In a three-page letter addressed to Jesus Dureza, the government's chief peace negotiator and presidential assistant for regional concerns-Southern Mindanao, and his counterpart in the MILF, Murad Ebrahim, the Peace Consortium of Central Mindanao (PCCM) said it found questions and irregularities in the distribution of relief items in the past.

The PCCM said there was no accountability on the part of the government agencies or the MILF in the distribution of the goods.

But the PCCM did not say which agency or organization was involved in the alleged irregularities.

According to PCCM chair Fr. Ben Toreto, the letter was sent for the government and the MILF to discuss its contents when the panels resume peace negotiations in Kuala Lumpur.

The PCCM suggested that cash donations and relief goods be made public by the agencies in charge of the distribution and would-be beneficiaries to be informed about it.

Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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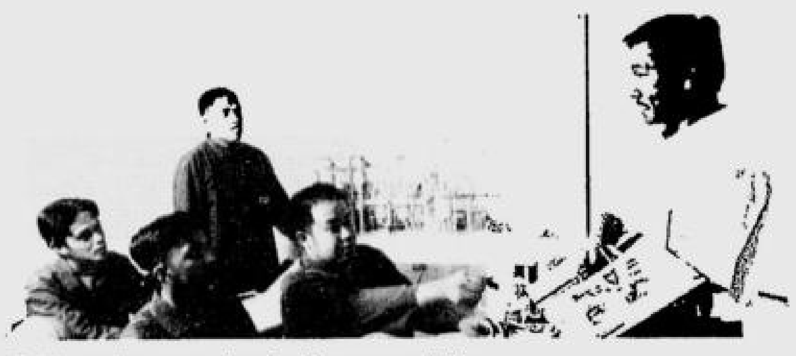

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Megawati new Indon president; Wahid sacked

(From page A1)

Wahid's stated position that he would not accept the legality of the vote that swept him from office.

The new president is adored by millions of poor and middle-class Indonesians. Although she had served as Wahid's deputy since 1999, she remains largely untested as a leader.

Apart from identifying herself with her father's nationalism, she has never outlined a strategy to pull Indonesia out of its deep economic crisis. Nor has she said how she would resolve the many ethnic, religious and separatist conflicts that threaten the unity of the world's fourth-most populous country.

Megawati later read a prepared speech to reporters ordering the current Cabinet to assume a caretaker role until a new government is named "in a few days." As usual, she refused to answer questions.

With Wahid determined to stay on and Megawati installed as the new President, Indonesia faced the prospect of two individuals claiming to be the rightful head of state.

Megawati, 54, will govern until parliamentary elections are held in 2004.

591-0

The motion to dismiss Wahid and replace him with Megawati was passed 591-0. More than 100 pro-Wahid deputies boycotted the proceedings.

Lawmakers erupted into cheers and applause when the result was announced. Megawati's husband, Taufik Kiemas, an assembly member, broke into tears.

The vote was taken after army generals and senior police officers rejected an emergency decree issued hours before by Wahid. He had ordered the immediate suspension of the assembly, Indonesia's supreme legislative body.

Unlike Wahid, Megawati enjoys close links with the military, which supported her rise to power.

The same assembly elected Wahid, a nearly blind Muslim cleric, in October 1999 as the first democratically chosen leader of Indonesia after the 32-year dictatorship of former President Suharto.

He was impeached for misrule, constitutional and alleged involvement in two corruption scandals, although prosecutors and police had cleared him of wrongdoing.

"Abdurrahman Wahid is dismissed as President before his term ends as he truly violated state guidelines," Amien Rais, the assembly's chair, said. "The Vice President, Megawati Sukarnoputri, is appointed President of the Republic of Indonesia."

Wahid, who boycotted the impeachment hearing and refused to defend his record before the assembly, made no comment after Megawati's inauguration. Instead, he hunkered down in his palace.

"If he leaves, it means he accepts the decision," said Foreign Minister Alwi Shihab, a close friend of Wahid's.

Asked whether Wahid would have to be forcibly removed, Shihab said: "I don't know. I don't know."

Civil unrest

For weeks, Wahid has warned that his ouster would trigger civil unrest.

There were no immediate reports of violence, although Wahid supporters protested in the capital.

Police stopped a convoy of 15 buses carrying Wahid loyalists before it reached the national assembly. Another 200 gathered outside the palace and vowed to prevent Wahid from being evicted.

The assembly met amid tight security on Monday in defiance of the emergency decree promulgated by Wahid before dawn. It called for the suspension of the legislature and ordered the security forces to stop the impeachment hearing from taking place.

However, with virtually no political support, Wahid's instructions were ignored by generals, condemned by lawmakers and invalidated by the chief justice.

Indonesian armed forces chief, Adm. Widodo Adisutjipto, deployed troops and tanks to protect legislators and key Cabinet ministers who submitted their resignations. *AP*

RP hails peaceful leadership succession in Jakarta

THE Philippines yesterday hailed the apparently peaceful transition of power in neighboring giant Indonesia and wished new President Megawati Sukarnoputri the best of luck in restoring normalcy.

"The good news is, it's taking place peacefully," foreign affairs spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros said of the transition.

Asked if the dismissal of President Abdurrahman Wahid and his replacement by Megawati would lead to stability in the world's fourth most populous nation, Lecaros said: "We certainly hope so."

The Philippine consul in Jakarta reported to Manila that there was "no disorder in the streets" and the country was calm, Lecaros told reporters.

"That's a country we have close relations with, officially or otherwise," he added.

But Lecaros stressed that problems in Jakarta were "for the Indonesians to sort out for themselves," Lecaros said, repeating a mantra of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Lecaros said Manila hoped the new government would continue to support the Philippine government's efforts to negotiate a political settlement with Moro separatist rebels in the country's Muslim south.

Wahid had offered to host the talks, which resume in Malaysia on Tuesday.

"We hope that that would still be on the table. But I guess they have bigger problems to attend to right now," Lecaros said. "The new President has to organize a new cabinet." *AFP*

Step aside Mang Pandoy, enter Jason, Jonas, Erwin

(From page A1)

Afterward, the reedy voices of the three children were hardly audible as a horde of journalists overwhelmed them with questions outside the Batasang Pambansa session hall.

"I want to be an accountant," declared the smallest of the three, Erwin Dulera, who at nine years of age looked more like a 5-year-old.

Jason Van Banuyon, 10, the second best student in his Grade 4 class, said he wanted to be an architect "and build houses for the poor."

Jomar Pabalan, the shiest among the three, could only mutter: "I just want to finish school."

It was to these children that Ms Macapagal addressed her promises of more jobs, better educational opportunities, more houses and more food.

"Your dreams are also our dreams. I will do everything just to make those dreams come true," Ms Macapagal assured the three boys, a pledge that was met with thunderous applause in the jampacked session hall.

The President began her Sona with the story of how the children had sent letters, folded into boats, down the Pasig River to Malacañang.

Later, when she asked them to join her onstage, Erwin, in jumpers, Jason, in cream-colored pants and a striped shirt, and Jomar, in combat fatigues and a white T-shirt, gingerly emerged from the left wing of the stage.

Ms Macapagal thanked them for their letters and for "reminding all of us why we are here in this session hall right now."

She exhorted the senators and congressmen to promise the boys "to be ready to make sacrifices and unite for the good, success and stability of the country and the future of the children."

The three were among more than 30 children from Payatas who had sent letters asking for the President's help.

"They're just regular kids. After this affair, we will bring them back to their families," said Julia Abad, executive assistant to Social and Welfare Development Secretary Dinky Soliman.

A Cabinet source said Ms Macapagal had tasked Housing Secretary Michael Defensor with looking after the welfare of Jason, Erwin and Jomar.

Cynical, impressed

Lawmakers were either genuinely impressed or cynical about what some viewed as an inspired gesture and others saw as a mere publicity stunt with people for props. One way or the other, the move earned her a standing ovation and the longest applause from both the floor and the galleries.

Opposition Sen. Luisa "Loi" Estrada quipped that it was "like a fairy tale—with all those paper boats."

She said the whole idea was no different from that employed by the Ramos administration when it "adopted" Mang Pandoy, a timid slum dweller symbolizing the Filipino Everyman.

"Nothing came out of that, but I hope this time there will be real results," the former first lady said.

Sen. Manuel Villar called Ms Macapagal's choice to call the children onstage "a refreshing approach in delivering (her) message to the masses."

"It's sort of a show biz (tactic), but I think this is what we really need these days, fresh approaches," he added.

Another opposition lawmaker, San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, smiled when asked to comment, saying: "It's just style. I don't comment on style."

Administration Sen. Joker Arroyo described the President's performance as "Clintonian," without elaborating.

Moved to tears

House committee on appropriations chair Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. said he was nearly moved to tears by the President's challenge to lawmakers to help Jason, Erwin and Jomar and all Filipino children like them.

When "we lawmakers get back to work starting tomorrow, whatever decisions we make, we will make with the fate of Jason, Erwin and Jomar in our minds," Andaya said.

But opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon was more skeptical.

"I hope the kids do not end up like Mang Pandoy," said Biazon as he noted that the public relations ploy could blow up in Ms Macapagal's face.

He did, however, say that the President's Sona set the country "in the right direction."

"The objectives and targets are achievable," he said.

People Power Coalition Sen. Francis Pangilinan took exception to comparisons made between the three kids and Mang Pandoy, who still lives in a Marikina shanty in grueling poverty despite the promises made and opportunities offered by former President Fidel V. Ramos.

"These three kids are different. Because unlike Mang Pandoy, they are still young and they have a long future before them," said Pangilinan.

"We can invest in their future . . . There is more hope because they belong to the new generation to which all our children belong," said the congressman.

Neophyte Rep. Ted Failon (Leyte), who used to anchor a public service program featuring many tales of poverty, told reporters: "Let's give the President a chance, then judge her come 2004."

Striking similarities . . .

(From page A1)

But the list of similarities is quite long.

Ms Macapagal and Megawati assumed office under similar circumstances, following a series of dramatic events that included the impeachment of their immediate predecessors, the resignation of several Cabinet members, and the withdrawal of support from the Armed Forces.

Ms Macapagal became president after hundreds of thousands of demonstrating Filipinos demanded the ouster of Joseph Estrada after just 31 months in office.

Megawati took the Indonesian presidency from Abdurrahman Wahid after all factions participating in an impeachment hearing in the national assembly demanded Wahid's immediate dismissal.

Macapagal and Megawati, being vice presidents, automatically ascended to president as constitutional successors.

Both followed in the footsteps of their politician fathers. Megawati is the daughter of Indonesia's founding president Sukarno.

Ms Macapagal's father, Diosdado Macapagal, was the fifth president of the Philippine Republic.

Megawati will move back to the palace she grew up in, like Ms Macapagal did six months ago.

Both face many daunting challenges, the first and perhaps most difficult of which involves what to do with their predecessors and their loyal supporters.

Megawati has remained close-lipped throughout the long process of ending Wahid's tenure.

Ms Macapagal was strongly criticized for her "no comment" stance and reluctance to speak out against the disgraced Estrada's increasing corruption and mismanagement.

There is optimism that Megawati will be able to put together a Cabinet that would foster stability, encourage international investors and enhance financial credibility.

Ms Macapagal has also been perceived as capable of inspiring confidence among prospective investors.

Both have promised to end corruption and make their governments more accountable.

Megawati's close links to the military worry many because of the Indonesian Armed Forces' history of human-rights abuses and support for the Suharto dictatorship.

Militant groups have accused Ms Macapagal of coddling the military.

Both are 54 years old. Ms Macapagal was born on April 5, 1947; Megawati was born on Jan. 23, 1947.

Both have two sons, one daughter each.

Both have prominent moles on their faces. Megawati's is on her chin; Ms Macapagal's is on her left cheek.

Most tellingly, analysts have pointed with growing concern to what many see as Megawati's Achilles heel—her husband, businessman and former MP Tauffik Keimas, who is accused of shady deals and influence peddling.

Last week, a close friend and former secretary of Ms Macapagal, Virginia "Bing" Rodrigo, accused her husband of accepting bribe money to lobby for the recall of a telecommunications franchise bill which the President had vetoed. ***Compiled by Inquirer Research with a report from AFP***

She's popular, but can she rule Indonesia?

(From page A1)

Although she is adored by millions of loyal followers, many doubt whether "Mega," as she is affectionately known, will be able to match Sukarno's fighting spirit and charisma.

Her greatest challenge will be holding together the vast nation-archipelago, which her expansionist father helped create.

Still, it is sweet revenge for Megawati, who in 1999 saw the presidency of the world's largest Muslim-populated nation snatched from her because she was a woman.

At the time, she burst into tears, robbed of the country's top job despite her party's election victory because of the objections of a coalition of Muslim parties, which on Monday did a U-turn to back her unanimously.

Megawati assumed power under circumstances similar to both those that led to her father's political demise and that resulted in the downfall of Joseph Estrada.

Like Wahid, Sukarno was impeached and sacked amid allegations of misrule, and died in disgrace under house arrest in 1970.

Sukarno was driven from office in 1966 by Suharto, an army general who ruled with an iron fist for 32 years.

Much of Megawati's popularity is rooted in her pedigree. She is the eldest daughter of Sukarno, who declared independence from Dutch colonial rule after World War II.

Often likened to President Macapagal-Arroyo, the new Indonesian president has dismissed the comparisons by saying that Ms Macapagal is Ms Macapagal and Megawati is Megawati.

On Sunday—a day ahead of her rise to the presidency—Megawati was meeting with the country's other political party leaders, friend and foe alike.

Rumors that Megawati has never confirmed say she wanted the parties to agree not to challenge her presidency until the end of her term before accepting the post—fearful of going out of the same door as Wahid.

Analysts have warned that while Megawati has the people behind her, she still has a hard time with Jakarta's powerful elite.

They also point with growing concern to what most see as her Achilles heel, her husband, businessman and former MP Tauffik Keimas, who is accused of shady deals and influence peddling.

Symbol of resistance

The Indonesian leader rose to national prominence in 1996, when the Suharto's troops attacked her party headquarters. Although Megawati herself was never in any danger, she became a symbol of resistance.

Megawati's Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle won the most votes in the country's first-ever free elections in 1999. But she was outmaneuvered by Wahid, a politically astute Muslim cleric who landed the top job when Congress elected him president in October of that year.

Megawati has been married three times and has three children. She attended two universities but did not graduate, and she entered politics relatively late.

Like her father, Megawati's strongest support is among the uneducated and poor, who have been badly hit by Indonesia's worst economic crisis in a generation.

'Mannequin'

But despite her vast following, many doubt she has the political savvy and intellectual heft required to steer Indonesia out of its political and economic malaise.

"Megawati has no strategy of how she wants to run the country," said leading political analyst Salim Said.

People who work with her privately complain she has little patience for details and that her ability to understand political, economic, and security issues is limited.

"Mega has no position on anything," said John Roosa, a historian of Southeast Asia at the University of California at Berkley. "It's quite clear that she's just a mannequin."

Unlike her father, Megawati shuns the limelight. She rarely gives interviews or makes public speeches and relies heavily on a small circle of advisers. She has never spoken publicly about what policies she would pursue as president and mentioned none during her inaugural speech Monday.

Links to military

Her close links to the military worry many because of the armed forces' history of human-rights abuses and their support for Suharto's dictatorship.

She meets regularly with military commanders, and several retired generals are high-ranking members of her party.

Salim said if Megawati becomes head of state, reforms within the military and a push to end its long-running role in politics would stop.

He said Megawati was likely to order the military to crush armed separatist rebellions in the restive provinces of Aceh and Irian Jaya. Wahid has favored negotiations to end those rebellions.

"This is just the kind of figurehead the generals need," Roosa said. *AP, AFP*

Drilon by 1 vote, JDV by landslide

(From page A1)

and abuses of the government." Ople said in his speech.

The opposition were particularly indignant over the President's alleged meddling in the Senate presidency race when she made known her preference for Drilon.

"This leaves us no choice but to exercise an aggressive fiscalizing role," Ople added.

Pimentel also said the situation in the Senate would now be such that they will "scrutinize everything with a fine-tooth comb."

"We will ask for no favors and they cannot expect any quarters from us," he said.

Healthy

But the administration senators is undaunted by the opposition's declaration of war, saying that this will contribute to a healthy two-party system in the Senate.

"In a very closely divided Senate, I think everyone will start behaving," said Sen. Joker Arroyo, who will get the post of blue ribbon committee.

Other winners

In yesterday's vote, all the 12 senators who had signed a manifesto to vote for Drilon kept to their promise.

They are Senators Renato Cayetano, Robert Barbers, Juan Flavier, Loren Legarda, Joker Arroyo, Ralph Recto, Francis Pangilinan, Manuel Villar, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Ramon Revilla; and independents John Osmeña and Noli de Castro.

But as Senate tradition dictates, Drilon voted for Pimentel and Pimentel voted for Drilon.

Those for Pimentel were Senators Edgardo Angara, Teresa Aquino-Oreta, Vicente Sotto, Blas F. Ople, Rodolfo Biazon, Loi Ejercito-Estrada, Panfilo Lacson and Gregorio Honasan.

Also for Pimentel were PPC Sen. Sergio Osmeña and independent Robert Jaworski.

Villar was voted Senate president pro-tempore; Legarda, majority floor leader (the first woman senator to assume such post); and Pimentel, minority floor leader.

The three-hour ceremony marking the opening of the 12th Senate was marked by civil, but heated debates between the opposing camps.

Buy one, take one

In a speech, Pimentel described the term-sharing agreement between Drilon and Cayetano as a "take off from the buy-one-take-two schemes that department stores often resort to dispose of their wares that are not moving fast."

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao also doubted the wisdom of a proposed term-sharing arrangement between Drilon and Cayetano.

"The senators will determine if there is such a power-sharing. In my view, that is not appropriate. When the senators elect their president, power is shared among the 24 senators," Tiglao said.

Arroyo tried to justify the disunion in the Senate. It was right for the administration and opposition senators to draw the battle lines, he said as the diversity would enrich the "two-party system."

Noting how "bitter" was the fight between the two blocs in the last elections, Arroyo said they could not be expected to "side with the enemy."

Independence

Almost all of the opposition senators justified their vote for Pimentel by saying that they wanted to keep the Upper Chamber's independence.

This argument earned a sharp rebuke from Recto who, in explaining his vote for Drilon, said the opposition senators cannot speak of independence as they were biased when they voted to leave unopened an envelope containing damaging evidence during the impeachment trial against former President Estrada.

Deodorant

He also noted how the opposition might have used Pimentel as a "tool" to deodorize their tarnished credibility.

But the remark quickly elicited a reply from Sotto who reminded Recto that "we think before we speak in this August body."

In reaction, Recto later remarked: "In the House, we think before we vote" referring to Sotto's vote not to open the envelope during the impeachment trial.

Drilon will need all his people skills to pull the Senate together. He did say something to that effect. That he will work to unite the two blocs in the Senate to ensure the passage of Malacañang's pet bills.

Showered with praise

In contrast to the election of Drilon, De Venecia's installation was showered with praises *(Story on Page 1A)*.

He was nominated by Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. with five others seconding the nomination, which crushed De Venecia's rival, Nueva Viscaya Rep. Carlos Padilla.

De Venecia won with 184 votes to Padilla's 17. Only San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora abstained from voting.

Padilla and Makati Rep.Agapito "Butz" Aquino will share the tenure of the minority floor leader for the next three years. Padilla will be minority floor leader for the first year and will yield to Aquino in the last two years.

De Venecia devoted much of his inaugural speech detailing his "747 Economic Action Plan," a legislative strategy aspiring to lead the country back to the growth curve posted during his first two terms as Speaker during the Ramos administration.

He promised to transform the House into an "activist, reformist, achievement- and performance-oriented" body, saying it should work to "lift the pall of gloom and doom, of fear and loathing that has oppressed the national life."

His 747 master plan, he said, seeks to address "the single biggest task" of the House, which is to rein in the national budget deficit, with an ambitious bid to have "a balanced budget and surplus by the time our term ends."

As to where to get the money to tame the deficit, De Venecia pointed to the $10-billion Official Development Assistance fund from Japan and Europe which the country had access to but had not actually tapped for lack of the required counterpart funding.

"This huge pool of funds is untapped and unutilized because the President and Congress have failed all these years to provide the 25 percent counterpart funds of $2.5 billion or P125 billion," he said in his 15-minute speech.

Within two to three years under the plan, he said, Congress should provide this counterpart fund to capture the $10 billion and thus provide the government with a total fund of $12.5 billion or P625 billion.

In order to come up with the counterpart fund, the government should improve tax collection "without imposing new taxes." For potential government funds, the coconut levy and Marcos wealth cases must be resolved as they involve P70 billion and $650 million, respectively.

The Speaker also proposed the equity securitization of up to $1 billion of a portion of the national government share of the Malampaya offshore national gas project in Palawan.

The ODA fund, he explained, would be enough to build 250,000 houses a year or plant 1 billion trees, among others, in the process creating jobs and encouraging new entrepreneurs especially in the rural areas.

"The provision of this fund will enable us to use our own internally-generated funds to augment the limited funds for education, health, agriculture and infrastructure, and to modernize the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police since ODA cannot be utilized for purposes of external or internal defense," he explained.

Use BOT

In order to "ease the pressure on Congress" to provide capital funds for development, he added, individual congressmen, governors and mayors should use the "successful" Build-Operate-Transfer Law in realizing infrastructure projects in their communities "at no cost" to the host local government unit.

The Speaker also asked LGUs to "campaign for investments" in their respective areas by attracting affluent Filipinos abroad into entering into BOT arrangements with the provincial government at $500,000 to $1 million per project.

'Runaway horse'

Describing the budget deficit as a "runaway horse," De Venecia said the shortfall is expected to shrink progressively until the Macapagal administration ends in 2004.

Government projects a deficit of P145 billion this year, about P130 billion next year, an estimated P80 billion in 2003, and P50 billion in 2004, he said.

De Venecia recalled his past triumphs:

"When he had the privilege to be Speaker twice from 1992 to 1998, mobilizing the (House) Committees of Appropriations and Ways and Means and the Departments of Budget and Management and Finance under President Ramos, we managed to balance the budget and achieved modest surpluses in 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997 until the Asian financial crisis struck in July (1997) and, complicated by corruption and inefficient tax collection, created huge holes of deficit of P50 billion in 1998, P111-billion in 1999, and P120-billion in 2000."

Tap internal assets

In order to achieve growth, De Venecia said the country must tap "internal assets" while it awaits "forward movements in the economies of the US, Japan and Europe, and for Argentina and similarly-situated nations to sort out their (economic) problems."

"Before, (Philippine) growth was led by the outward strategy—exports- and investments-led—that was strongly dependent on foreign investments. Today, however, our main markets and sources of investments and capital, the US and Japan, and also Europe, are in various stages of decline," he said. ***With a report from Rocky Nazareno***

PIATCO-Terminal 3

A betrayal of the Filipino people

Ninoy Aquino International Airport

Speculations are rife that the NAIA Terminal 3 project is a convenient milking cow of the family owners of PIATCO, with the tacit consent of the highest ranking official of the DOTC. To cover up these speculations, PIATCO has made the following claims:

PIATCO claims that they won the contract fair and square, *but they have concealed the fact that the contract was changed three times under the Erap administration by adding amendments and supplements that radically altered the essence of the bid in favor of PIATCO.*

PIATCO claims the Agreement is favorable to the Government of the Philippines (GRP) because they have guaranteed payments totalling P17.75 billion in 25 years. *But PIATCO does not mention that NAIA already earned P1.25 billion in 1999 alone and will earn at least P31.25 billion in 25 years. Therefore, the PIATCO contract would result in GRP losses of more than P13.5 billion in 25 years.*

PIATCO claims not a single centavo will be taken from the Treasury of the Philippines to finance the construction of NAIA 3 and there is no direct government guarantee, subsidy or equity involved. *But Section 8.03 of the Agreement requires the GRP to assume PIATCO's financial obligations to its foreign lenders if PIATCO defaults in its payment, in clear violation of Section 4-A of the BOT law. Furthermore, the contract also requires that the GRP will spend for the purchase of lands and the construction of access roads and other related infrastructures to facilitate the construction of NAIA 3.*

PIATCO claims that NAIA 3 will truly be a world-class airport terminal. *But how come certain airport officials are saying that PIATCO is using substandard materials, that PIATCO is getting commissions from its subcontractors, and that it is overpricing the cost of labor and materials to the detriment of its own German partners and the Philippine Government?*

PIATCO claims that this new airport will be beneficial to the Filipino travelling public. *But PIATCO did not tell the people that they have already advised the airlines of a 70% increase in rental rates. Doesn't PIATCO and DOTC Secretary Alvarez know that every tourist and every Filipino traveller will end up paying for all these rate increases?*

It is unfortunate that in the haste to promote development and progress, the DOTC has chosen to cast a blind eye to the most flagrant violations against fundamental rights and violations of laws. We appeal to the DOTC, the MIAA and our legislators to review and amend the Concession Agreement in fairness to the Filipino people and to all concerned.

THE MIA-NAIA
ASSOCIATION OF SERVICE OPERATORS

Paid Ad

Jobs, housing, food, education . . .

(From page A1)

tice and the rule of law are concerned."

She explained that her display of concern for Estrada was an accommodation of the "feelings of the segments of our *masa* who have continued to identify with his personal circumstances."

To support her four-point agenda to lick mass poverty, the President appealed for a ceasefire on political bickering.

"From today, let us set aside bickering and politicking for at least one year," the President said.

"Instead of bickering, let us for one year, help each other for the betterment of our people," she said.

Free enterprise

Her four-point plan calls for free enterprise "with a social conscience . . . not a pitiless free-for-all," modernization of the agriculture sector, special programs for the disadvantaged and improvement in the "moral standards" of government and society.

Dressed in a pine green Muslim-inspired outfit, the President introduced three children from the Payatas dumpsite, who, she said, embodied her aspirations for the nation—jobs, education, a house for every family and food on every table. ***(Story on Page A1.)***

The three boys nearly upstaged the President as most of the 228 members of the House, 24 senators and guests in the gallery gave the children a standing ovation before the President finished her speech.

The jobless

The President acknowledged the nation's difficulties.

"From 2.5 million jobless four years ago, unemployment now stands at 4 million. From a budget surplus in 1997 of more than P1 billion under President Ramos, my government inherited a deficit exceeding P140 billion. In the same period, poverty incidence rose from 36.8 percent of the population in 1997 to 40 percent in the year 2000," she said.

"Our challenge is clear: eliminate poverty," Ms Macapagal said.

While her administration received a "solid mandate" in the May 14 elections, she said she did not consider the results as a choice between the administration and the opposition camp allied with ousted President Estrada.

"I see it rather as a vote for all of us—administration and opposition—to roll up our sleeves, stop looking back and move forward, most especially in the fight against mass poverty," she said.

The enemy is us

The President said the greatest obstacle the nation must overcome was "inside us."

"The enemy to beat is ourselves," she said. "When we spread division rather than unity; when we put ourselves above country and profit above fairness; when we think the worst of those with whom we should be working for the common good and when we wallow in despair rather than rise to achievement. Indeed when we make politics replace patriotism in our country's hour of need."

The President paid tribute to the bloodless Edsa People Power I and II, and admitted that the Edsa III staged by supporters of Estrada had humbled her.

She said these uprisings showed the transfer of power over the state from the traditional economic and political bosses to the people.

"Last May 1, the poor raised their voices in anger and their fists in fury. Imprisoned in poverty, shackled to shame, denied justice in society, they personally delivered the message that, 100 years after they revolted to establish this nation, they had yet to partake of the national dream," the President said.

Humbled

"I heard their message loud and I was humbled," she said.

Because the majority of the poor are in the countryside, the President said her administration would spend P20 billion for irrigation, post-harvest facilities, infrastructure and research to modernize agriculture.

"There can be a million new jobs in agriculture and fisheries. Within the year, the (Department of Agriculture) shall begin to implement the program to generate them," she said.

The President said that starting today she would hold office at the Department of Agriculture "until we can see the million new jobs get off the ground."

Ms Macapagal also said 10,000 out-of-school youths would be given emergency employment.

To ensure sufficient rice supply, she said the monopoly of the National Food Authority to import rice would be set aside for the meantime. She said that the private sector would be allowed to import rice as long as they pay the customs duties and that a thousand rolling stores would be deployed to sell cheap rice.

She said her administration would resolve the coconut levy funds in favor of the farmers.

Land reform

The President said she would redeem her father's commitment to land reform and shall distribute 100,000 hectares of public land and 100,000 ha of private lands, including 100 ancestral domains for indigenous peoples, every year.

The President said the urban poor also needed immediate relief from economic hardships.

She promised to give security of land tenure to 150,000 families each year, saying she is saddened each time she sees "squatters in their own country."

She said 10,000 housing units for workers and the poor would be made available each year.

Ms Macapagal formally asked Congress to create a Department of Housing to spur mass housing and generate jobs.

"Mark this: P20 billion for housing for the poor. This is the gift of the government for the security of the Filipino family," she said.

The President said 80,000 urban poor families had already benefited from the land distribution scheme during her six-month old administration.

Wage adjustment

To address high prices and low pay, the President asked Congress and the regional wages and productivity boards to act on demands for higher minimum wages.

"I hope that Congress or the wage boards would decide what is the right wage," she said. For the meantime, she reiterated her appeal to the employers to give their workers emergency cost of living allowance, which she said could be credited to any future wage adjustment.

The President said the government was keeping a tight watch on oil prices and would keep the LRT fares at their current rates.

Ms Macapagal said that prices of medicines for the poor would be cut in half and that 500,000 urban poor families would be covered by Philhealth insurance.

To ease the tax burden on workers, the President urged Congress to adopt gross income taxation and to widen the categories of tax exemptions.

She did not forget Mindanao.

The President said she would bring the fight against poverty to Mindanao, which she would turn into the gateway to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

She vowed to put an end to the Abu Sayyaf problem.

"But it must end and it will end soon, for good. The leadership of the Abu Sayyaf has started to fall. The crackdown has neutralized 130 of them," she said.

Culture of plain talk

The President said her administration was introducing a new culture in governance—a culture of plain talk and common sense.

"Cabinet secretaries will do less cluster and interagency committee work so that they can concentrate on running their departments," she said.

The President said her Cabinet was under a 12-month deadline to produce tangible results in their respective areas.

She said that the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission was empowered to investigate and prosecute grafters in high places and that the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and Bureau of Customs would be turned into showcases of graft-free agencies.

Ms Macapagal said she was throwing her full support behind BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez, who she said had received threats for his plan to revamp the agency.

"This man needs friends, who share his goals, and I know he will find them in this young Congress," she said.

"But the government cannot do it alone . . . I am not a miracle worker. All of us must do our share," she said.

On reviving the economy, she urged everyone to "think Filipino, buy Filipino, invest Filipino."

"I invite the taipans and other business people all over the country to start pump-priming the economy by investing once again in the Philippines," she said. "I invite you to create jobs, accelerate progress and thereby address the root causes of the crime and unrest that so much alarm us."

Cops fire shots to stop protesters in Pampanga

By the PDI Bureaus

FIRING warning shots, policemen yesterday tried to prevent protesters in five buses and jeepneys from leaving Pampanga for Metro Manila to join rallies during President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address (Sona).

Elsewhere in the provinces, militant groups mounted street rallies to present their own issues and accounts of the "real" state of the country.

Leaders of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) in Central Luzon said the police stopped about 500 of their members at the San Fernando tollgate of the North Luzon Expressway at 11:15 a.m.

Tonton David, spokesperson of the Workers Alliance for Central Luzon, claimed that a certain Superintendent Pinpin tried to confiscate the licenses of the bus drivers.

When the police officer refused to let the buses leave the gate, the protesters decided to alight and stage a picket for 20 minutes, causing traffic jams at the Dolores Junction in San Fernando, David said.

After negotiations, the policemen allowed the group to proceed to Metro Manila.

Roman Polintan, Bayan-Central Luzon chair, said at least two policemen, believed assigned to Camp Olivas' regional mobile group, fired their M-14 rifles in an attempt to disperse the protesters.

The protesters ducked for safety. No one was reported hurt.

Polintan said Pinpin ordered his men to retrieve the spent bullets.

Senior Supt. Allen Bantolo, regional police intelligence chief, said he would order an investigation of the incident.

Bantolo said police commands in Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales were ordered on Sunday to go on a "heightened alert" to ensure that the President's delivery of her Sona would go on smoothly.

Women activists from the Pagkakaisa ng Kababaihan para sa Inang Bayan (Kaisaka) managed to pass the police watchpoints unnoticed, according to its chair, Sonia Soto.

They hid Kaisaka banners and posters in their skirts, she said. Others tucked the materials in their shirts.

Soto said the President's "Gloria Labandera" image was only a myth.

"Her administration is not promasses as her retooled image would like us to believe. Her administration is patently anti-masses because it has not significantly and concretely addressed the issues of landlessness, joblessness and homelessness in the last six months," Soto said.

In Baguio City, about 50 students marched down Session Road and later joined militant groups in the Cordillera for a people's summit that was timed with the Sona.

Among the issues that the groups wanted the President to address are wage increase; stop in oil price increases; the stop of foreign funded projects that threaten the life, land and resources of indigenous peoples; and the swift and fair trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada and his cronies.

In Lucena City, militant groups yesterday decried alleged "militarization" and human rights violations in an alternative Sona to present the "true state" of Southern Tagalog.

About 2,000 farmers, fishermen, workers, students and women joined the protest action.

In a statement, Pastor Mel Abesamis, Bayan regional leader, said 10 military and police battalions were now spread all over the provinces in Southern Tagalog.

He said the "Oplan Makabayan" and "Oplan Habol Tamaraw" were being initiated by the AFP's Task Force Banahaw in Mindoro as part of the militarization of Southern Tagalog.

Abesamis also cited the presence of the 16th Infantry Battalion in Eastern Mindoro, 1st IB in Laguna, and the 74th and 76th IBs in Quezon.

About 2,600 members of militant groups staged separate marches in Bacolod and Iloilo cities.

In Iloilo City, about 2,000 people, mostly slumdwellers, workers and students joined a rally led by Bayan, the partylist group Bayan Muna and the League of Filipino Students in their own version of the Sona.

They later converged on the grounds of the Museo Iloilo for a mock presentation of the television soap "Pangako Sa 'Yo."

In Bacolod, about 100 persons gathered at the Fountain of Justice in Bacolod for a rally initiated by Sanlakas and the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino.

They also held a noise barrage at about 4 p.m. as the President was delivering her Sona.

About 500 persons participated in a Bayan-led rally at the Welcome Rotunda of the city plaza.

In Davao City, some 1,000 members of militant and student groups trooped to the streets.

Ariel Casilao, secretary general of Anakbayan-Southern Mindanao, said it was time for the people to hold the President accountable to her promises.

"It's time to collect her debts to Filipinos," he said.

Dr. Robinson Montalba, spokesperson of the Promotion for Church People's Response, said that based on the records of the Department of Foreign Affairs, 2,100 Filipinos are leaving the country everyday because of lack of job opportunities.

In Butuan City, around 500 members of militant groups held a rally at the Rizal Park.

Bayan Muna's Gene Prisco said the Macapagal administration, just like its predecessors, continued to be "beholden to the interests and dictates of foreign and local capitalists."

Tribal organizations lambasted the administration's alleged continued militarization in the countryside.

Ruel Badbaran, chair of the Kahugpungan sa mga Lumad-Northern Mindanao, claimed that military operations in San Luis, Agusan del Sur have resulted in the displacement of civilians and violations of human rights. ***Reports from Tonette Orejas and Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau; and Joel Escovilla and Kristina E. Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

No talking in the rain for Cabinet, protesters

(From page A1)

change of views regarding the administration's program of action and how this related to so-called "basic problems of the country" being raised by the protesters.

In the end, all what the participants in the supposed dialogue got was a drenching in the heavy downpour.

"We're here to listen to what they have to say and to ask them to listen to what the President has to say," Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman told reporters.

Soliman, one of the leaders of Edsa People Power II in January that ousted Joseph Estrada, said it wasn't hard to relate to leaders of militant groups that also took part in the historic event that swept Ms Macapagal to the presidency.

"This isn't the proper time to hold a dialogue," Bayan Muna Representative-elect Satur Ocampo said outside the Batasang Pambansa complex where militant groups held their own "People's Sona" amid a heavy downpour.

According to him, leaders of people's organizations were already holding a continuing dialogue with the President at least once a month in which she would brief them on what her administration was doing.

"Despite these dialogues, we don't see any progression toward actual action," Ocampo said.

Wilson Fortaleza, president of Sanlakas, shared Ocampo's statement. "*Kwento-kwentohan lang*. There were handshakes but there were no substantial talks about the pressing reforms needed by the country," he said.

But Benjamin Abalos, chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority, wasn't giving up on the militant groups.

"There is a real need for us to sit down and dialogue. There are so many issues that we have to discuss," Abalos said.

"All what the Macapagal administration is asking is a year before its reform agenda produces concrete results," he added.

Soliman, Abalos, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit, Anti-Poverty Commission Chair Ging Deles, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council Chair Michael Defensor went down the Sandiganbayan building and joined the thousands of protestors around 2 p.m.

Despite the heavy rains, they stayed way into the night until all the protest leaders had delivered their speeches lambasting the administration for its alleged failures.

Numbers

The rally ended peacefully, unlike in previous Sonas. Both police and rally organizers honored their agreement that the protesters would only be allowed up to the corner of Commonwealth Avenue and IBP Road.

Deputy Director General Edgar Galvante, Metro Manila police chief, said about 7,500 policemen were deployed to secure the Batasan Complex and the roads leading to it.

He estimated the crowd at 10,000 before the heavy rains fell.

But rally organizers said they were able to mobilize at least 20,000 people.

Information officers of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said their group swelled to 10,000 when their march arrived at the Sandiganbayan. Fortaleza said Sanlakas and its allied groups were able to mobilize "at least 16,000."

Around 300 Estrada supporters under the People's Movement against Poverty (PMAP) marched around the Elliptical Road around noon.

They did not proceed to the Batasan and instead marched toward the Veteran's Medical Memorial Center where Estrada is kept under hospital arrest.

Riot policemen did not allow the PMAP protesters to get near the hospital.

At around 11:45 a.m., Sanlakas members flew kites, dubbed "Saranggola ni Gloria," at the intersection of Batasan and Commonwealth.

The kites were labeled "*presyo ng bilihin* (price of goods)," "*presyo ng langis* (oil prices)," "peso-dollar rate," "*bilang ng nagugutom* (number of hungry people)" to symbolize the escalating cost of living and worsening poverty.

One of the highlights of the Bayan rally was the swearing in of Bayan Muna party-list representatives Satur Ocampo, Liza Maza and Crispin Beltran.

The Commission on Elections has yet to proclaim them as winners in the recent elections.

While the protesters were shouting slogans and waving banners, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office was busy distributing *lugaw* (rice porridge) in four baranggays around the Batasang Pambansa complex.

More of the same

Carol Araullo, convenor of the watchdog group Plunder Watch, said the Macapagal administration should go beyond "its boxed solution to the problem of poverty."

"Granting that her intentions are good, if (her administration) does not change the mindset, nothing will happen," she said.

Teodoro Casiño of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan also harped on the same theme.

"The President's plans may appear no-nonsense and hands-on, but what she's offering is simply more of the same old things. There's nothing radically new in her speech that can make any real difference in the lives of the common folk," he said.

"She can tell us all her wonderful plans to eradicate poverty, but as long as her government adheres to the framework of imperialist globalization and swallows hook, line and sinker the policy dictates of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and World Trade Organization, she is bound to fail."

The militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) described the administration's fight against poverty as "pure empty talk for the poor."

Christians

Kaalagad Katipunang Kristiyano, a gathering of militant Catholics and Protestants, also joined what it called a "celebration of the People's Sona."

In a statement, Kaalagad said the "trend will continue downhill and the majority will turn cynical."

But Kaalagad urged Catholics and Protestants alike to "hold on to the Great Promise and keep faith with the poor."

In a crisis situation, Kalaagad said, there is "a temptation to succumb to paralysis and despair, to be content to rave and rant and lay the blame elsewhere."

Instead, Kaalagad prayed, "Lord, lead us not into that temptation and to hold fast to God's great promise that we can make the world better . . . Rather than surrender to cynicism . . . to dream with the *anawim*—the poor of Yahweh—and transform those dreams into reality." ***With reports from Ceres Doyo and Norman Bordadora***

Cheers from business, jeers from Loi

(From page A1)

bickering, Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito appeared piqued when the President proposed a bill allowing the Office of the Ombudsman to hire private lawyers.

Ejercito said "it's almost as if she was telling this Congress to convict (my husband). It appears that she wants more private prosecutors (for this purpose), that's how I saw it."

Copycat

Asked to comment on Ms Macapagal's anti-poverty strategy, Ejercito said it was "full of promises, but I gave her credit for pursuing the pro-poor programs of President Estrada, like the creation of 1 million jobs in the agriculture sector."

It only showed that the Estrada administration "had the right priorities" all along, the senator said.

She noted that the President's pro-poor programs as itemized in the Sona "seems to be merely repeating (that of my husband's). The 'Rolling Stores'—that's Estrada's."

But market analysts find the President's speech supportive of the business community.

They said the President's statement that laws must be "interpreted in favor of market enterprises" should give some hope to the stock market amid the current political and economic uncertainties.

Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said the President's efforts to reduce corruption and unnecessary government spending should send positive signals to the market.

Luz Lorenzo, ATR Kim Eng Securities head of research, said Ms Macapagal "showed that her heart is in the right place and she knows her priorities. The program is not ambiguous."

"I think these are very concrete steps to help jumpstart the economy and minimize corruption," Roxas said, taking note of the President's promise to support the crackdown against currency speculators, strengthen the police and push for key legislative reforms needed to boost confidence.

Personal Equity Retirement Act or Pera, which encourages employees and self-employed individuals to create a retirement fund to complement the services offered by the Social Security System and the Government Service and Insurance System;

Revised Investment Company Act, which seeks to update the four-decade old Investment Company Act and removes restrictive provisions that hinder the development of the mutual fund industry; and,

Securitization Act, which aims to promote long-term housing finance, combined with the elimination of the documentary stamp tax on secondary trades.

The President also reiterated that she was supportive of amendments to the Securities Regulation Code.

Brokers were complaining that several stringent provisions of this law, such as the broker-dealer segregation rule, were detrimental to the market.

Roxas also noted that the shift to gross income taxation mentioned by the President was a welcome move as this would minimize harassment from some corrupt Bureau of Internal Revenue agents as far as tax assessments were concerned.

Gross income taxation, according to businessmen, would leave very little room for maneuvering since it would do away with the tedious system of tax deductions.

Positive note

AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan said the market would likely trade on the positive note today because earlier concerns that there would be bloody demonstrations during the Sona did not materialize.

Although he believed the speech still lacked specifics, he said the positive tone should provide some positive signals to the market.

"She has laid down the goals of the government and now that she has the cooperation of both houses of Congress, it will be a doable program," Vistan said.

But other analysts said the promises made during the Sona might not be realistic.

Mark Securities chief market strategist Manuel Cruz said: "There's a lot on the agenda and it's very hard to believe that this could be achieved especially with the government's big budget deficit. You don't know where they will get the cash to fulfill them so it seems like it's a tall order."

On the peace and order situation, for instance, Cruz said the President had long promised that she would bring an end to the Abu Sayyaf crisis in Mindanao the soonest time possible. But he said the country had yet to see positive results.

In Zamboanga City, District Custom collector lawyer Lourdes Mangaoang said she was glad that the President acknowledged the efforts of Customs officials in improving their revenue collections.

In Isabela City in Basilan, while the President was delivering her Sona, Virginia Rosadeno, mother of hostage Maria Fe Rosadeno, was counting her remaining money to sustain her and her son Pastor Randy Rosadeno's expenses as they work for the release of her daughter who is now in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf.

Inside a room provided by the religious community here at the Christian Formation Center, Virginia said she hoped the President's promise would come true.

"I hope she could find a way to rescue my daughter and the other hostages who are poor like us," she said.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu described the President's speech on peace and development as "Okay *naman* because she made mention of the peace process in Mindanao and her intention to pursue this plan."

"We are for peaceful resolution to Mindanao's problem but we don't give a time frame," Kabalu said.

"Good!" was North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol's reaction to the President's plan to turn over the Malitubog-Maridagao irrigation project in Carmen town, to the Army Engineering Brigade if not completed by September.

"It's good news for us," Piñol said.

The governor said the project has been delayed because "everybody wants a piece of the cake."

A leader of a farmer's group in Isabela described the President's speech as "empty and plain promises."

Melchor Batalla, president of the Danggayan dagiti Mannalon ti Isabela, said Ms Macapagal's first six months in office were marked by farmers wallowing in poverty. ***With reports from Villamor Visaya Jr., Desiree Caluza and Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Froilan Gallardo, Joel Escovilla and Julie Alipala-Inot PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Hail, hail . . .

(From page A1)

day struggled to outdo each other lavishing De Venecia with admiring appellations as they rose to cast their vote for Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The third-time Speaker received various and colorful nicknames that are now part of House records. His colleagues dubbed him "Big J," "Smokin' Joe," "the future President" and "Mr. 747," in reference to "Economic Action Plan 747," his proposal for alleviating poverty.

Listening to some of the monikers, one would never guess that the political veteran hailed from Pangasinan: "a true friend of Mindanao," "a Bicolano by choice," "the pride of Region I."

To one congresswoman, De Venecia was simply the "Ladies' Choice."

At least two young congressmen invoked family ties, saying they were voting for him because he was "my ninong" and the "colleague of my father and my grandfather."

One legislator came up with a fanciful analogy, likening De Venecia to "a rare combination of velvet and steel"—an allusion to the Speaker's record as peace mediator.

But perhaps the most amusing title he got came from one colleague who labeled him "a man who equally spreads the sunshine," a reference to the "Sunshine Coalition" De Venecia forged between Lakas-NUCD and the Nationalist People's Coalition.

But it also had another meaning to veteran members of the House press corps, who covered De Venecia when he used to preside over the distribution of controversial pork barrel funds among congressmen.

'Thorpedo' smashes own record

MELBOURNE— Australia's newspapers celebrated Olympic hero Ian "Thorpedo" Thorpe's latest world record on Monday, comparing the teenager with swimming great Dawn Fraser. Thorpe, 18, the Olympic title holder and defending world champion in the 400 metres freestyle, set his 10th long-course world record with a time of 3:40.17 at the world championships in Fukuoka, Japan, on Sunday. *Reuters*

SPORTS
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Age-group tennis listing on

REGISTRATION is now going on for the Philta Classic III Age Group Championships slated Aug. 4-5 and Aug. 10-12 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Events on tap are boys' and girls' 18-under, 16-under, 14-under, 12-under and unisex 10-under divisions. Players may register at the Philta office (tel. 525-64-34). Deadline of entry is on Aug. 2 at 12 noon. Entry fee is P200.

4-YEAR SLUMP ENDS

Duval wins British Open by 3

LYTHAM ST. ANNES, England — The massive crowd that swallowed up David Duval walking up the 18th fairway in the British Open didn't faze him.

He had seen it all before—only it was always someone else's party.

Tiger Woods and Vijay Singh at the last two Masters. Woods at St. Andrews last year, when the closest Duval got to the silver claret jug was on the flight home.

On Sunday, a celebration long overdue was all his.

"It's a wonderful experience," Duval said Sunday. "I'd go through it again."

Duval refused to let the British Open turn into the 18-hole shootout everyone expected, seizing control with a rock-solid game that carried him to a 4-under 67 and gave him the prize that had eluded him the past four years.

He never looked at a leaderboard through those wraparound sunglasses. He didn't have to. Duval always believed he had the mettle to withstand the pressure of golf's sternest test, and the silver claret jug he held aloft was the greatest proof of all.

"I did everything I needed to do," he said. "I feel really good about that."

The stoic expression hardly ever changed until the last putt fell. Only then did Duval peel off the shades and blink in the bright sunlight over Royal Lytham & St. Annes, finally able to call himself a major champion.

"I don't know if I can savor this any more than I do now," he said. "I imagine what it would do is intensify my desire to do it again."

Duval finished at 274 for a three-stroke victory over Niclas Fasth of Sweden, the only one among a long list of proven players who sustained any kind of challenge.

Former Masters champion Ian Woosnam might have been one of them. But after nearly making an ace on the opening hole, the Welshman realized he had an extra club in his bag and was assessed a two-stroke penalty.

Haunted by the costly mistake, Woosnam finished with a 71 and was four strokes back at 278 along with five others.

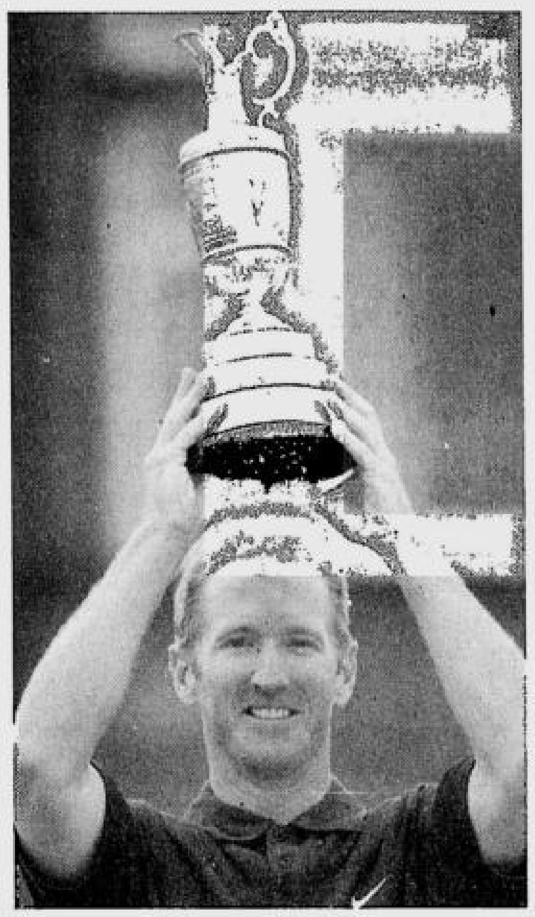
Three of them were major championship winners _ Woosnam, two-time Masters champion Bernhard Langer and two-time U.S. Open champion Ernie Els.

Duval takes his place among them.

The only player besides Woods to be ranked No. 1 in the past three years, Duval expected to be there all along.

Meanwhile, another major championship passed without Woods in serious contention.

Like so many others, Woods couldn't make enough birdies on a firm, fast links course littered with pot bunkers. He took triple bogey on the par-3 12th and wound up nine strokes behind in a tie for 25th, his worst finish in a major in nearly four years. *AP*



DUVAL: Finally nails the Big One. AP

Final scores

274 - David Duval (USA) 69-73-65-67
277 - Niclas Fasth (Swe) 69-69-72-67
278 - Ernie Els (Rsa) 71-71-67-69, Darren Clarke 70-69-69-70, Billy Mayfair (USA) 69-72-67-70, Miguel Angel Jimenez (Spa) 69-72-67-70, Ian Woosnam 72-68-67-71, Bernhard Langer (Ger) 71-69-67-71
279 - Mikko Ilonen (Fin) 68-75-70-66, Kevin Sutherland (USA) 75-69-68-67, Sergio Garcia (Spa) 70-72-67-70, Jesper Parnevik (Swe) 69-68-71-71
280 - Vijay Singh (Fij) 70-70-71-69, Loren Roberts (USA) 70-70-70-70, Des Smyth 74-65-70-71, Billy Andrade (USA) 69-70-70-71, Retief Goosen (Rsa) 74-68-67-71, Colin Montgomerie 65-70-73-72, Raphael Jacquelin (Fra) 71-68-69-72, Alex Cejka (Ger) 69-69-69-73

AFP

Immonen tops World Pool

AN EMOTIONAL Mika Immonen burst into tears as he became World Pool champion Sunday after a thrilling final at the Cardiff International Arena in Wales.

The Finnish-born New Yorker is the first European to win the Admiral World Championship trophy since 1996 as he beat Ralph "The Kaiser" Souquet in the race to 17 racks.

The match was delicately poised at 10-10 when Immonen suddenly found his form and reeled off the remaining seven racks to take the title.

"It feels good," he said. "I can't believe it. Somebody pinch me and wake me up. I wasn't sure it would be my year this year. About three years ago, I thought I'd win it and it didn't work out, so I went into each match with a different perspective this time around and it worked."

Immonen reached the finals by beating Canada's alain Martel, who defeated Filipino Leonardo "The Rattlesnake" Andam in a controversial quarterfinal match that irked Andam no end.

Andam lost, 11-9, but not after he was slapped a foul shot by the referee, a call that didn't sit well with the crowd that included many Filipinos.

Before the foul shot, Andam rallied from 1-4 and 7-2 to lead, 9-8, in the Race-to-11 match.

The supposed foul shot, which Andam didn't agree to, saw the Filipino touch the 6-ball with the score at 9-9. Martel took advantage of it and won Rack 19 en route to clinching the match at 11-9.

Jones prevails

NEW ROCHELLE, New York —Rosie Jones birdied the final hole for a 1-under-par 70 Sunday that gave her a one-stroke victory over Laura Diaz in the LPGA Big Apple Classic, a tournament she had come close to winning three times.

It was the first time Americans finished 1-2 in an LPGA tournament since last year's Betsy King Classic, a span of 28 events. Americans held six of the seven top spots on the final leaderboard.

The 41-year-old Jones won for the second time this year and 12th time in her career. She finished third in this event in 1990 and second in 1993 and again last year by one stroke to Annika Sorenstam.

Dorothy Delasin of the Philippines shot a 68 and finished at 283, 15 shots adrift.

Bitter Andam; bye Romy K

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

ROMY Kintanar, that popular "Man on The Ball" of the PBA in the '80s, died Monday night after a heart attack. His body lies at Funeraria Nacional along Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Romy was one of the jolliest fellas in sports. A good chess player and a great actor of Visayan films, Romy also wrote a sports column for *Tempo*. I had shared bottles with Romy, mostly at Dinky's in front of Philsports (formerly Ultra). Because he said he was a Ginebra fanatic, "my choice of drink is also a Ginebra." He would finish a gin *bilog* with relish in an hour or less.

Bye, *Kasamang* Romy. You'll be missed.

■

Joe Lipa, coach of Ateneo's senior basketball team, owes INQUIRER sportswriter Dennis U. Eroa an apology. By challenging Dennis to a fistfight, Joe was completely out of order.

Joe acted in a most irrational manner when he berated Dennis while Dennis was offering a handshake by way of congratulating Joe for steering Ateneo to a 68-60 victory over National University last Thursday. Next, he challenged Dennis to a fistfight outside the Loyola Gym after telling Dennis: "*Matagal ka nang may atraso sa akin mula sa PBL pa.*"

But said Dennis: "I'm not aware of any unfriendly story that I wrote about him, or any unfriendly act that I did against him for that matter. I swear to my mother's grave."

Had Joe done some sleuthing, he would have found out that Dennis did not write the story that said Lipa would be fired if Ateneo lost one of its next two games (against NU and Far Eastern University). In short, Joe barked up the wrong tree.

As one sage said, "No investigation, no right to speak."

Anyway, Dennis handled the situation well. And his reason not to call Joe's challenge tugs at the heart. Citing the advice of his late mother, Dennis wrote: "Come what may, always respect your elders, son." His mother was an elementary schoolteacher for more than 30 years in Gumaca, Quezon.

Dennis is 36 and Joe is old enough to be his father.

■

Too bad Leonardo "The Rattlesnake" Andam was charged with a foul shot in his quarterfinal match against Alain Martel of Canada in the World Pool in Cardiff, Wales. It happened at a most crucial time of the match, when the score was tied at 9 after Andam rallied from 1-4 and 2-7 to take a 9-8 lead. Referee Chris Atkin charged Andam with a foul, ruling that Andam's cue had touched the 6-ball while hitting a shot.

Luverne Gueco, the INQUIRER's editor of "The World," did not believe Andam committed the foul shot. •

"He is a professional for years now and he has won several international titles already," said Luverne, who loaned his cue stick to Andam for the tournament. "I don't believe he touched the 6-ball as the referee ruled."

In his anger, Andam did not shake the hands of both the referee and Martel after the match.

"I am not sure if he touched the 6-ball or not," said Martel. "I was on the other side of the table when the alleged miscue happened."

Foul or not, that certainly did Andam in as the referee's call definitely swung the momentum to Martel, who went on to win the rack; he next pocketed the 20th rack almost with ease to wrap up the match, 11-9. But Martel, called "The Dancing Bear," would lose to Finland's Mika "The Iceman" Immonen, 11-7, in the semifinals. Immonen went on to win the championship against Ralf "The Kaiser" Souquet of Germany.

But there was nothing to be ashamed of for Andam and his teammates—Rodolfo Luat, Ramil Gallego, Warren Kiamco, Antonio Lining, Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Efren "Bata" Reyes, the 1999 champion. They did their best. . The breaks weren't just on their side this time.

There's always next year to look forward to, right Putch?

All set for 15th Rotary golf

PREPARATIONS are now in full swing for the prestigious 15th Rotary Golf Fellowship Foundation Philippines (RGFFP) golf tournament on Sept. 19-21.

This southern leg will be held in a new world-class championship course designed by Andy Dye—the Rancho Palos Verdes Golf & Country Club—and the Apo Golf & Country Club in Davao.

Big prizes and surprises are up for grabs in this year's tournament, not to mention the yearly P1 million hole-in-one cash prize on both golf courses sponsored by Seaboard Eastern Insurance through its president, Jose Halili-Co.

For more information, please contact Ditas Serapio—at tel. nos. 721-8896, 721-0564, 721-5940, fax: 721-4797, e-mail: rgffphi@email.com.

Ateneo de Davao dribblers shine

DAVAO City squads, led by Ateneo de Davao, nearly swept five divisions during last weekend's Mindanao elimination of the Adidas Streetball Challenge 2001 at Gaisano Mall.

A 13-12 triumph in the sudden-death shootout by Team Chromium, built around a unit from Ateneo de Davao, over Team Exigence in the senior division spiced an afternoon of basketball action for fans which overflowed at the atrium of Gaisano Mall.,

Team Terpium, composed of cagers from Holy Child School of Davao, routed Team Kobe, 25-8, in the junior division.

Prizes were awarded by Adidas Philippines Inc. managing director John Alonte, Adidas Philippines sales and marketing director Sonny Nebres, Tats Suzara of the Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Wheelchair Basketball League Luis Arellano, Team Ventures head Emmanuel Penson and tournament director Charlie Dy.

Another Ateneo de Davao crew, Team North Rim, downed Team Elusive, 15-11, for the midgets crown.

Only the girls division escaped Davao City teams as Cagayan de Oro's Team St. Kilda downed Team Monitor of Zamboanga City, 16-10.

Team Zambada beat Team Pure, 14-6, to capture the Streetball-On-Wheels division, which drew a record 14 squads.

Kournikova marries hockey star player

LONDON—Russian tennis star Anna Kournikova has married ice hockey star player Sergei Fedorov in a private ceremony in Moscow, the Sun newspaper reported Monday in a front-page story.

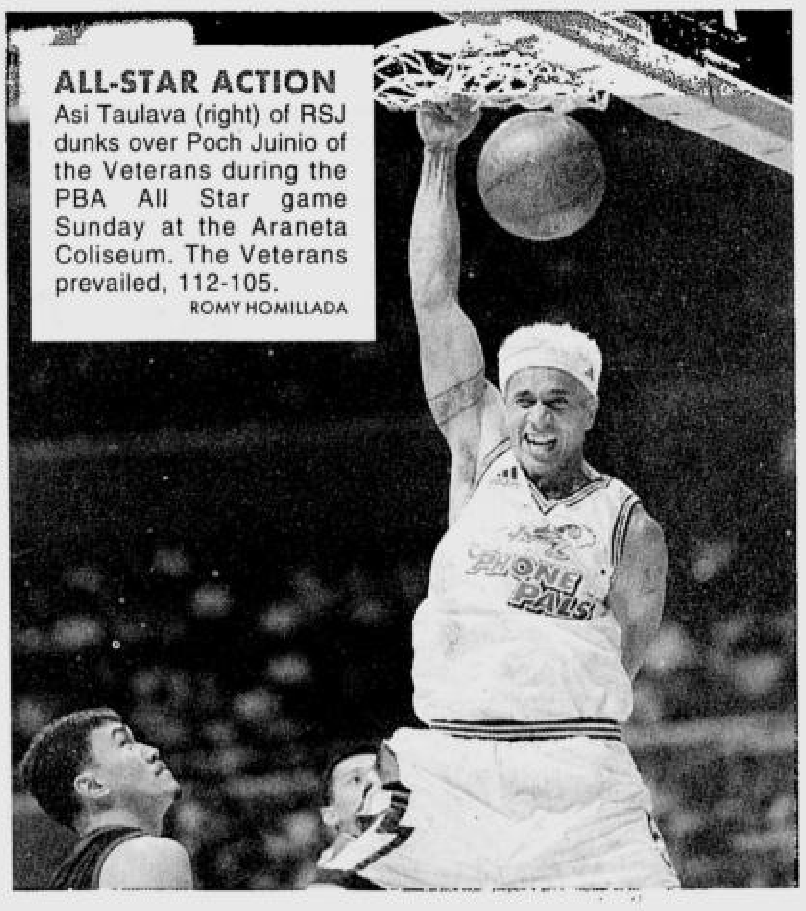
The 20-year-old Kournikova, who has made millions in modeling and endorsement deals, wed the 31-year-old Fedorov at a registrar's office in the Russian capital, the paper said. *AP*

Peace chess slated

THE TENTH leg of the 2001 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express (Peace 2001) gets underway on July 28 at Land Bank's Multi-Purpose Hall in Makati City.

Business executives and professionals who want to have fun and relax playing Active Chess, contact the Acca with tel. 892-8759 for details.

Peace 2001 is being sponsored by DNS Company and organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia in cooperation with Belgosa Media Systems, Land Bank, Tabilog Cargo Services, Topmost Engineering and Travel Café.



ALL-STAR ACTION
Asi Taulava (right) of RSJ dunks over Poch Juinio of the Veterans during the PBA All Star game Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum. The Veterans prevailed, 112-105.
ROMY HOMILLADA

Stags gore Dolphins; Bombers rise to 4-0

BY JUNE NAVARRO

GAMES THURSDAY:
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
12 noon—St. Benilde vs UPHR (jrs/srs)
3 p.m.—Letran vs Mapua (jrs/srs)

SAN Sebastian College lived by its torrid shooting in the three-point area to subdue Philippine Christian University, 61-55, yesterday in the NCAA varsity basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Unchallenged at the trifecta territory, the Stags peppered the Dolphins with a deluge of treys in the final quarter and went on to pick up their second win in four starts.

In contrast, the Dolphins, playing catchup throughout, couldn't deliver beyond the arc as they flubbed seven of their tries during crunchtime en route to a 1-3 record in the eight-team tourney.

PBL veteran Mark Macapagal drained four triples to lead the Stags' charge with 16 points but it was Roy Falcasantos' three-pointer and a bank shot off Omar Asmad in the dying seconds that made the difference.

It came after the Dolphins' mad dash in the stretch with rookie Leo Gaspi filling the scoring sock for the Taft-based dribblers.

The beefy, 6-foot-2 Gaspi hammered his frame inside, barreling 11 of his 13 markers in the fourth quarter to keep the Dolphins within striking distance.

Ernani Epondulan topscored with 43 points as Jose Rizal University nipped San Beda College, 103-98, in the other seniors' game.

The Bombers streaked to their fourth straight victory, while the Red Lions slipped to 1-3.

Scores:

SSC 61—Macapagal 16, Reguerra 14, Coronel 8, Alfad 8, Falcasantos 7, Moore 4, Gonzales 4, Najorda 0, Morales 0, De Leon 0, Uy 0.

PCU 55—Gaspi 13, Omolon 10, Asmad 8, Franco 7, Sanz 5, Dais 4, Ilagan 2, Gatdula 2, Roque 2, Agahan 2, Guiyab 0, Legayada 0.

Quarters: 18-12, 42-28, 49-38, 61-55.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	57	41	.582	—
Boston	56	42	.571	1
Toronto	47	52	.475	10 1/2
Baltimore	42	55	.433	14 1/2
Tampa Bay	32	67	.323	25 1/2
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	58	40	.592	—
Cleveland	56	40	.583	1
Chicago	48	48	.500	9
Detroit	43	53	.448	14
Kansas City	38	60	.388	20
West	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	71	27	.725	—
Anaheim	49	49	.500	22
Texas	40	57	.412	30 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	56	42	.571	—
Philadelphia	54	44	.551	2
Florida	51	48	.515	5 1/2
New York	45	55	.450	12
Montreal	43	56	.434	13 1/2
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	56	41	.577	—
Houston	54	43	.557	2
St. Louis	49	48	.505	7
Milwaukee	43	54	.443	13
Pittsburgh	38	59	.392	18
Cincinnati	36	62	.367	20 1/2
West	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	57	41	.582	—
Los Angeles	56	43	.566	1 1/2
San Francisco	52	47	.525	5 1/2
San Diego	48	51	.485	9 1/2
Colorado	41	57	.418	16

COMPLETE RESULTS
AMERICAN LEAGUE

Cleveland 6, Detroit 3, N.Y. Yankees 7, Toronto 3, Tampa Bay 7, Texas 4; Anaheim 9, Baltimore 4, 1st game; Baltimore 5, Anaheim 1, 2nd game; Seattle 6, Minnesota 3; Chicago White Sox 13, Boston 8, Kansas City 5, Oakland 4.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Atlanta 8, Montreal 2, Philadelphia 3, N.Y. Mets 2, Pittsburgh 2, St. Louis 0; Houston 3, Chicago Cubs 0; Florida 11, Cincinnati 7; Arizona 12, San Francisco 4; San Diego 4, Milwaukee 0; Los Angeles 9, Colorado 8. *AP*

Fans laud Lance

LUZ-ARDIDEN, France —Lance Armstrong may make dashing to mountain tops on a bike look easy, but he knows it isn't, and so do his fans.

"People in the States don't realize the athleticism," said Bill Emery, a legal records manager from Arlington, Virginia, who followed Armstrong's last three mountain stages in the Tour de France.

"I ran a marathon and I didn't have to get up the next day and do another one," said his wife Helena Emery, a Washington D.C. attorney.

The couple is part of a small but visible number of American cycling fans who line the roads of France to watch the three-week, 20-stage Tour, arguably one of the toughest sports events in the world. *AP*

Carmona karting July 29

CARMONA, Racing Circuit, the "home of local karting,'' comes to life anew with the staging of the pivotal sixth leg of the 2001 Shell Super Karting championships on Sunday, July 29, in Carmona, Cavite.

Led by multi-awarded Pepon Marave of Demvel's and last year's PSA "Karter of the Year" awardee Philip Alvendia of Kart 1, the country's top karters report back to action and resume their campaign in this eight-part kartfest.

Roligon hosts derby today

AFICIONADOS will be treated again to another round of quality fights with the holding of the Peter Macky 4-Cock Derby today at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City.

Hosted by Ronnel Tanada, known in the slashing world as "Peter Macky," the event will be participated in by the group of Juan Miguel Soliven of Cadiz City.

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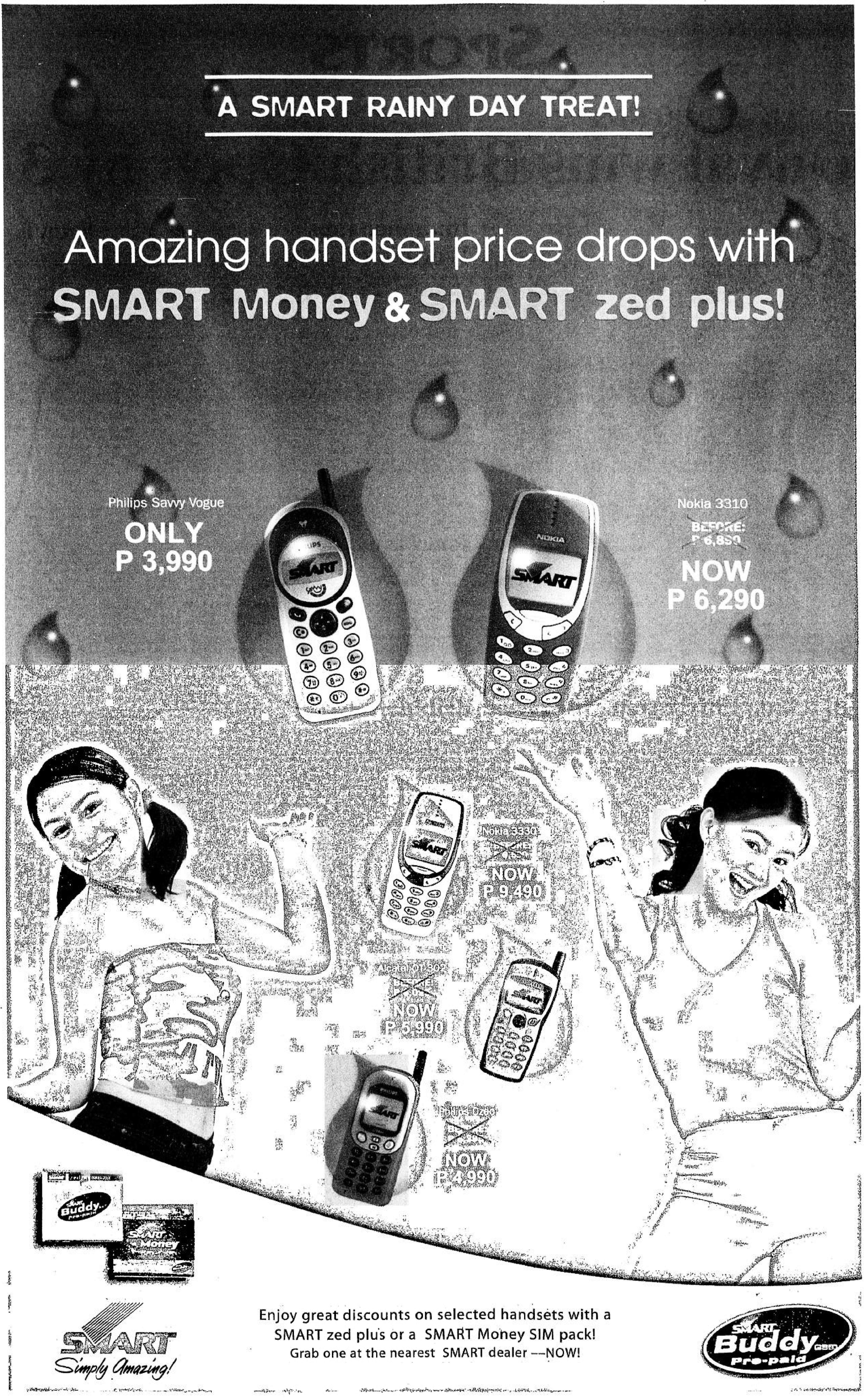

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

'Someone he knew so well' killed harpist Tadao Hayashi – cops

BY ALCUIN PAPA, CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA AND LEAH SALTERIO

SEVERAL blows to the back of the head with a blunt instrument killed popular Japanese harpist Tadao Hayashi, who was found dead in his bedroom in Caloocan City yesterday morning, investigators said.

Chief Supt. Jose Marlowe Pedregosa, head of the PNP Crime Laboratory, said the autopsy on Hayashi's body showed that a blunt instrument was used to kill the Japanese.

"Death was caused by intra-cranial hemorrhage as a result of multiple traumatic injuries to the back of the head," Pedregosa said, reading from the autopsy report by medico-legal officer Capt. Arnel Marquez.

Hayashi was 62.

Police said they were focusing on the angle that Hayashi was killed by "someone he knew so well."

"There were no signs of forcible entry," said Supt. Benjardi Mantele, Caloocan police chief. "In fact, it appears that Hayashi entertained the killer."

Police found two glasses on a table in the living room, which could mean Hayashi offered his suspected killer a drink, Mantele said.

The autopsy report said Hayashi sustained three blows to the back of the head, fracturing his skull. Two blows were also delivered to his chest, breaking his collarbone. Blows also shattered his right eyebrow, chin and left ear.

Hayashi's left hand bore superficial stab wounds, apparently caused by a short knife, Pedregosa said. This could be a sign that Hayashi put up a fight, he said. Hayashi's office assistant, Antonio Clet, found the body at 6 a.m. in the master bedroom of the musician's house at Block 5, Lot 7, LD Village, Tala, Caloocan.

Clet had gone to Hayashi's house to fetch the Japanese for an appointment.

SOMEONE/A18

TADAO HAYASHI, 62

Cell phone firms sign deal blocking use of stolen units

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

OWNERS of stolen cell phones can now prevent the thieves or their buyers from using the phones.

Yesterday, three of the country's major cell phone service providers signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) on blocking in their networks the use of stolen cell phones.

Under the agreement, Globe Telecom, Isla Communications Inc. and Smart Communications Inc. will prevent the use of stolen cell phones in their networks by tracing the stolen handsets through their IMEI or international mobile equipment identification.

The blocking will be done after the owner of the stolen cell phone submits an affidavit of loss accompanied by the corresponding police report.

This service, however, is still limited to post-paid subscribers.

But Globe Telecom is already working on a pre-paid version of the service, according to Rodolfo Salalima, Globe corporate and regulatory affairs senior vice president.

"We might make registration optional for pre-paid subscribers," Salalima said.

Post-paid subscribers need to accomplish prescribed documentary requirements such as a service application form, and present a valid ID and proof of billing before they can be registered.

Pre-paid subscribers buy their SIMs or subscriber identification

CELL PHONE/A18

Manila Water seeks increase of ₱1.24

BY CHRISTINE GAYLICAN

THE AYALA-OWNED Manila Water Co. Inc. has asked the government to allow it to increase its basic water rate by P1.24 per cubic meter to cover its losses following the drop in the peso's value in recent months.

Manila Water president Antonino Aquino Jr. yesterday said the 24-centavo increase—in addition to the P1 raise it earlier proposed—would compensate for losses they incurred with the decline in the peso's value, now pegged at P53 to the dollar.

In a public consultation, Aquino said the company has about $80 million to $90 million in dollar-denominated debts, made up of loans acquired from the old Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Services System and term loans from MWCI's creditor-banks.

MWCI has already filed its intent to revise its water rates, which is now P4.64 per cubic meter, to include additional costs such as the environment charge and the value-added tax.

The raise, once implemented, will result in an

MANILA/A18

WAZZZZUP?
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

8th day BAR • CAFE ST. FRANCIS SQ. ORTIGAS CTR.	FREESTYLE (JULY 24, TUESDAY)	WISEGUYZ JULY 25/634.7696
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Café OVERDRIVE FORD BLDG. P. TAMO EXT., MAKATI	NIKKI JUNIA (ACOUSTIC NIGHT)	FREE ENTRANCE 818.5555/813.1348
Cowboy GRILL BRGY. ALMANZA, LAS PIÑAS	GOALKEYS KOOL JACKS	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 801.7644
Cowboy GRILL 1143 ARQUEZA ST., MAKATI	THINKERS w/ JOGRAD STAY TUNED/CITY BORN	NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy GRILL 431 REMEDIOS ST., MALATE	SERSIDE PUZZLES	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 521.8143
Cowboy GRILL NOVALICHES Q.C.	HOMOSAPIENS HIMIG	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 936.9757
DOWNTOWN Music Bar & Restaurant	MOONSTRUCKS (RETRO NIGHTS)	P 250 CONSUMABLE ☎ 373.3333
KAMPO 2088 #47 WEST AVENUE Q.C.	BLAKDYAK R.O.B/HEAT OF D' NIGHT	P 200 CONSUMABLE 373.5110/373.7181
EXAMINER'S LITE n' LIVE #52 EXAMINER ST., Q.C.	MERMAIDS MICHELLE & NORIE	P 150 CONSUMABLE 373.2221/373.7183
music W. REHOUSE ACROSS CENTRAL MARKET	NEW LEVEL 7 SECONDS	SIDE A JULY 28 P300/735.1280
PartyPlace SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA	ROCK NYT	THE DAWN JULY 28, SATURDAY
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If you have one or more wishes you would like to come true quickly, read the following, before it's too late:

During my last trip to Europe, I was amazed to see how many people had these sumptuous statues of the Virgin. But what surprised me most was that this statue — made in Lourdes, France — is covered by a clear dome FILLED WITH THE MIRACULOUS HOLY WATERS OF LOURDES.

The first question that came to mind was: "Just why do so many people have this statue of the Virgin immersed in the Miraculous Waters of Lourdes?"

I immediately went to Lourdes to find out. What I discovered there is amazing.

Water from Lourdes: Miraculous Water with limitless powers

The Virgin has appereared *19 times* in Lourdes. And so Lourdes is considered to be the prime location on earth for powerful beneficial forces---the place where the world's most numerous and astounding miracles occur. There is no scientific explanation for the beneficial forces concentrated in the waters flowing from the sacred source in the Cave of Miracles.

It is no surprise that for more than a century, two million pilgrims have been travelling annually to Lourdes to be close to these waters with their limitless powers. And some of these individuals even manage to bring back some of the Miraculous Water of Lourdes with them.

Wherever this Water goes, the beneficial powers of Lourdes follow

A vast number of people who possess even a few drops of this water constantly attest to the positive changes and fortunate events that occur in all aspects of their lives: money, love, success, luck, fulfillment and happiness.

It is perhaps even more incredible that these fortunate events occur for people of all races, creeds and origins! Even for nonbelievers! And the kinds of miracles that occur are wide-ranging and varied. Thousands of testimonials are incontestable proof of these miracles.

For example, there are those who needed money,comfort, healing and happiness—and received it unexpectedly:

- Ms. Jeanne Cole, CA USA, won $20,000 shortly after receiving the Miraculous Water of Lourdes.
- Ms. Edna Eclipse, Intramuros, Manila, finds comfort with the Statue of Lourdes whenever she had problems or sick.
- Ms. Ma. Jelenie Ampane, Almodian, Iloilo City who felt so low and hopeless find peace and happiness when the Statue came and gave hope to her.
- Mrs. Leonora Pimentel, Malabuyoc, Cebu who had been childless for 12 years received a miracle - she conceived a child since she had in her possession the Statue of the Virgin Mary immersed in the miraculous water of Lourdes.

And these are just a few examples s among thousands upon thousands flocks to the Cave of Miracles including people with *emotional, physical, and spiritual problems.*

Five thousand scientists who were skeptical or who didn't believe in the supernatural powers of the Miraculous Waters of Lourdes went to Lourdes to study them. And while they could not explain all the miracles they observed, they had to admit these miracles did in fact occur. They even certified that the Water of Lourdes is genuinely miraculous.

For the first time you can now receive this authentic statue of the Virgin covered in a dome filled with the Miraculous Water of Lourdes

If you cannot travel to Lourdes, France, and to these Miraculous Waters... the Miraculous Waters of Lourdes now come to you. And they can stay with you. Not just for a few day or a few weeks. But FOREVER. Don't forget that *wherever* this Water goes, the limitless powers of Lourdes go with it.

Each statue of the Virgin is made in Lourdes and hand-painted by talented craftsmen. Each statue is then covered with a phosphorescent mystic substance to make it glow in the dark. Then these craftsmen protect the statue in a clear protective dome filled with the Miraculous Water, taken directly from the original source in the Cave of Miracles.

Consequently, it is no surprise the value of this statue and the Miraculous Water in which it is immersed is inestimable. What's more, the source of Lourdes Water is small and the demand for its water is worlwide.

This is the first time—and perhaps the last—that the Lourdes Statue Immersed in the Water of Lourdes would be available in the Philippines. The quantities are very limited and are directly air freighted from Lourdes, France.

To receive one or more statues, just fill in and mail the coupon to the indicated address. We ask a special offer of P299 per statue to cover distribution costs (+ postage and handling) and insurance.

Unfortunately, we probably will not be able to meet all requests. To benefit from this very special offer, please sign the document appearing on the coupon. By doing so you agree merely to send us a brief letter about the fortunate and unexpected events you experience, thanks to the powers of the Miraculous Waters of Lourdes surrounding your statue.

President, Lourdes Research Organization

Note: Orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Don't you think it would be a shame to fail to benefit from this special offer today, by responding too late?

To be sure to reserve your statue of the Virgin immersed in the Miraculous Waters of Lourdes, fill in the coupon below *right now* and mail it *today—and no later than midnight on Friday of next week.*

Guarantee: If for any reason you no longer wish to keep your statue(s) of the Virgin with St. Bernadette immersed in the Miraculous Water of Lourdes at some point in the future, just return it. Your contributions will then be immediately returned to you IN FULL.

Important Notice: Take advantage of this special P299 offer—which we may never be able to make again—Order several statues and help us spread JOY and HAPPINESS among your friends and family.

Each statue of the Virgin is accompanied by a certificate attesting:

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– that the water in which it is immersed is the Miraculous Water taken from the Cave of Miracles of Lourdes.

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I enclosed a payment of P299.00 to cover postal, insurance, freight, handling charges per statue, or I will send my payment by postal money order upon receipt of my C.O.D. package at the post office, or with a private courier.*

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Birthday /__/__/__/__/

I promise to inform you in writing as soon as I come across any fortunate and lucky events in my life through the Miraculous Water of Lourdes.

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American found dead in Manila Hotel

By Jerome Aning

AN AMERICAN, whose flight to the United States was cancelled when the plane developed engine trouble, was found dead in his Manila Hotel room yesterday morning.

Thomas Sharp, 53, an employee of CSI Control Co. and a resident of Kansas City, Missouri, was found dead by his Filipino wife, Claudette, 21, police said.

SPO3 Ernesto Jose Jr. of the Western Police District homicide section said Sharp arrived in Manila on July 5 to fetch Claudette and their 7-month-old son Gale Thomas. Sharp even brought along his sons by his first wife: Alexander, 10, and Michael, 12.

On Sunday, the family boarded Northwest Airlines Flight 1004 bound for the United States. But the plane reportedly developed engine trouble over Cagayan and had to return to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, police said.

Airline personnel took the family to the Manila Hotel where they would wait for their new flight schedule.

Man slain collecting P600-debt

By Jerome Aning

DARIO Melendres was killed Sunday night when he tried to collect the P600 he lent to a fellow vendor in Tondo, Manila.

Melendres, 30, of 39 Mabuhay Street, Tondo, was stabbed several times and died on the way to the Gat Andres Bonifacio Memorial Medical Center, also in Tondo, about 12:30 a.m.

PO3 Joselito de Ocampo of the Western Police District homicide section said Melendres was on his way home when the suspect, identified only as Jaime, attacked him at the corner of Lakandula and Mabuhay streets about 9:30 p.m.

The suspect, who is at large, was described as about 20 years old, 5-foot-3, muscular, fair-complexioned, round-faced, and wearing a white shirt and shorts.

About 4 p.m. Sunday, Melendres confronted Jaime on Lakandula, and berated and beat him up for failing to return the P600 he borrowed on July 18, PO3 De Ocampo said. The suspect was supposed to invest the money in a *lugaw* (rice porridge) business.

Melendres expected Jaime to get even, so he took a different route in going home. But Jaime still managed to track him down and, after a chase that ended on Lakandula, cornered him between a parked FX taxi and a jeepney.

McDonald's ordered to pay woman for 1998 accident

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

AN ANTIPOLO trial court has ordered the local franchise holder of the international fast-food chain McDonald's to pay a sister-in-law of former Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. P51,010 in damages for an accident that happened two years ago in the premises of one of its stores in Quezon City.

Judge Felix Caballes said McGeorge Food Industries was responsible for the accident that befell Miguela Yusingco, who slipped and fell on the wet pathway in front of the McDonald's branch along Katipunan Avenue on June 19, 1998.

Yusingco, 65, the prefect of students of the Kostka School of Quezon City, reportedly sustained abrasions and contusions in the shoulder, pelvis and hip joints.

Caballes said the fast-food chain was "negligent" because it did not put up any sign to warn its customers and pedestrians that the pathway was wet.

"The failure of (McDonald's) to provide the necessary warning is negligence on its part, which is actionable in law," the judge said in a three-page decision dated June 27. "No convincing evidence was shown to prove that (Yusingco) did not exercise care or caution, or that there was negligence on her part."

The court pointed out that Yusingco was just seeking reimbursement of her medical expenses of P1,010, but McDonald's refused to settle.

Apart from the actual damages of P1,010, the court also awarded Yusingco P20,000 in lawyer's fees and P30,000 in moral damages.

"The court also believes that if only (McDonald's) did not ignore her (Yusingco's) demand for compensation for her injuries, (Yusingco) would not have been compelled to litigate this matter in court," the court said.

Yusingco said she was supposed to have coffee at McDonald's Katipunan because it was just adjacent to her school.

Since the store was still closed she decided to return to the school, passing through the pedestrian's pathway which was still wet.

She said she slipped and fell, landing on her buttocks. Due to her injuries, she was not able to attend several school activities and missed some important meetings, she said.

It was the second time that the same McDonald's Katipunan branch figured in a legal battle over injuries allegedly sustained by a customer while in the store.

In 1996, 5-year-old Camille Santiago was reportedly electrocuted at the store counter and suffered third-degree burns that deformed her right hand.

The girl's family sued for damages after McDonald's refused to pay.

The case is still pending before the Quezon City regional trial court.

Rice smuggling in the Visayas

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

SENIOR Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, former chief executive officer of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) and Panfilo Lacson's favorite subordinate, used to protect rice smuggling in the Visayas.

Nobody at the Bureau of Customs dared touched illegal big rice shipments, according to my sources, without incurring the ire of Aquino. Customs sources say that actually Aquino was just a dummy protector of the rice smugglers. The real protectors were President's Erap's close relatives and mistresses.

But now, even without Aquino, rice smuggling continues in the Visayas. Who is now protecting the rice smugglers?

* * *

The biggest rice smugglers are the brothers Lim who own Lirio Enterprises. They reportedly own nine ships that go abroad, particularly Thailand, and bring in huge rice shipments without paying taxes. Rice coming from Thailand is considered premium rice.

The rice shipments are reportedly made to appear as coming from domestic sources. Domestic rice shipment is not subject to customs duties.

Lims' smuggled shipments are landed at the ports of Cebu, Bohol and Leyte.

* * *

Another alleged smuggler is known as Jenny whose broker, a certain Doray Morales, reportedly has a sister working in Malacañang.

Recently, her smuggled rice shipment was seized by the customs bureau. Morales' sister is allegedly pressuring customs officials to release the confiscated cargo.

Rice smugglers will do everything to protect their illegal cargoes now that Senior Supt. Aquino is already out. They deprive the government of millions of pesos in revenues.

* * *

There is a sunny side to the rice story.

Anthony Abad, the newly appointed administrator at the National Food Authority (NFA), is making huge savings for the government in the importation of rice meant for the masses.

Abad, a lawyer who used to be tariff commissioner at the World Trade Organization (WTO), buys "broken rice", the local equivalent of quality "C-4" rice, from Thailand at US$145 per metric ton.

Last year, the NFA under another administrator, imported broken rice at US $206 per metric ton.

* * *

That's US$61 in savings per metric ton. Multiply that figure by the hundreds of thousands in metric tons in shipment and you get a staggering figure.

Why the big difference in price between the rice imported by the NFA under Abad and the previous administrator?

NFA sources say the imported rice was bought from a middleman, Manny Tan, who was allegedly a crony of President Erap. Abad buys the rice straight from the source.

* * *

Talking about Erap, I don't pity the guy for his fate, although millions of our countrymen still sympathize with him.

If these Erap sympathizers would read a secret file on him made by the Philippine National Police's Intelligence Command, their feelings toward him would change from pity to hatred.

I got hold of secret documents written on Feb. 17, 1998 by the Intelligence Command about Erap, long before the basher of Erap and Panfilo "Ping" Lacson became its head.

* * *

In fact, the secret documents were signed by Senior Supt. Arturo C. Lomibao, then the director of the PNP Intelligence Command. Lomibao, who was placed on a "freezer" (without any assignment) during the Erap administration because of his report, has since been promoted to chief superintendent (equivalent to the Army's brigadier general) and now holds the position of director of PNP Recom I.

The following was Lomibao's introduction to his detailed secret files on Erap:

"In Philippine politics, no one is more closely identified with the masses than Vice President Joseph 'Erap' Estrada. With his quintessential wristband (the symbol of 'kanto' tough guy), 'one-with–the-people' pictures (the most popular of which is having lunch with a poor family with nothing but the poor man's fare of *tuyo* and rice), Erap is undoubtedly identified to be the champion of the masses. At a superficial angle, Erap seemed innocuous, almost tame, relative to his high-strung political rivals and contemporaries.

"However, reports revealed otherwise. Investigation (by the Intelligence Command) disclosed a very dangerous facet of the Vice President of the Philippine Republic. One report to another reveals that Erap is not the 'Forest Gump' (a movie about a simpleton who became wealthy) he is perceived to be but a Machiavelli, albeit, a dangerous one, whom, if left catapulted to the Presidency, possesses the capability to crush the country.

"According to reliable reports, Erap is connected with almost all forms of big-time criminal activities in the country, ranging from big-time drug trafficking, human smuggling, illegal gambling, international high class prostitution, and a string of murder cases when he was Chairman of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC).

"If classified information gathered on PACC are (sic) true, then it would make it into the vilest machinery of oppression since the Marcos regime. Documents unearthed revealed stories reeking of cold-blooded murder and violation of human rights performed by abusive officials of the PACC—all done to serve personal ends. In an evil attempt to portray a function Commission, PACC ranking personnel, headed by PACC's Task Force Habagat *(headed by Lacson—RT)*, did not hesitate to frame up innocent victims just so they would come up with 'accomplishments' to be trumpeted by their cohorts in the media."

* * *

The report above was made before the May 1998 presidential elections.

Had it been made public, perhaps Erap would not have won the presidency and the country would have been spared the agony of his mismanagement. And publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer, his driver Emmanuel Corbito, and casino employee Edgar Bentain, would still be alive. And, yes, Panfilo Lacson would not have become senator.

The details of Lomibao's secret files will come out in subsequent columns.

* * *

The Association of Firearms and Ammunition Dealers Association of the Philippines (AFAD) is sponsoring free training of policemen in basic gun handling and safety. Ammunition to be used in the training will be provided free by the association.

Most cops don't know how to shoot; worse, they accidentally shoot themselves and innocent people in pursuing criminals.

Teaching cops safe gun handling and shooting is AFAD's contribution to the country's peace and order, the association's press release said.

TANTAY

Hot car pawned to TV director

By Agnes E. Donato

POLICE yesterday said they uncovered a big car theft syndicate with the arrest of a businessman who allegedly pawned a stolen Toyota Land Cruiser truck worth P2.5 million to television director Al Tantay in San Juan.

Supt. Antonio Aguilar, chief of the Eastern Police District criminal investigation, identified the suspect as Ching Kiong Ong, alias Francis Ong, of 10th Avenue in Caloocan City. Ong was arrested in his house on Caliwag Street in Barangay Pinagbuhatan, Pasig around 11 a.m. Sunday, police said.

Aguilar said his group is trying to determine to which group Ong belonged.

Investigators said Ong, referred by Tantay's childhood friend Jose Mari de Leon, pawned a brown Toyota Land Cruiser (WEL-321) to the TV director for P720,000 on July 6.

Ong showed Tantay documents to prove that he bought the car from a Ruperto Santos of Balete Drive, Quezon City for P2.5 million.

On July 16, De Leon called up Tantay and said Ong was willing to sell the vehicle for another P250,000 for Ong and P150,000 for De Leon as middle man.

Tantay, a former movie actor, said he would think it over. He immediately checked the vehicle's records with the PNP Traffic Management Group and the Land Transportation Office and learned that the vehicle was a hot car and that its original owner was a Fernando Bulatao, of Pandacan, Manila.

The TMG told Tantay that the car's original license plate number was WMC-251 and that the car was stolen on M.H. del Pilar Street in Ermita, Manila on June 20.

Tantay said he reported his discovery to the EPD and cooperated in setting up the arrest of Ong, who was then waiting at his Pasig City house for Tantay's supposed payment of P250,000.

Ong is detained at the Pasig City police detention cell and is facing charges of car theft and falsification of public and private documents.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, July 24, 2000
16th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Ex 14:21—15:1**
Gospel: **Mt 12:46-50**

While Jesus was still talking to the people, his mother and his brothers wanted to speak to him and they waited outside. So someone said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are just outside; they want to speak with you."

Jesus answered, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" Then he pointed to his disciples and said, "Look! Here are my mother and my brothers. Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is for me brother, sister, or mother."

Commentary

Evangelists frequently bring to the fore the fact that family ties can have a negative effect on the development of the human person in terms of faith and mission. Christians are invited to be detached from these bonds. Jesus himself sets an example. In today's reading the intention of the family is obviously to keep him back from his mission, symbolized by the fact that they are standing outside. Jesus' mission is however from the very beginning to do the will of the Father, and he expects the very same thing from his disciples. At stake is spiritual maturity. Jesus did not come to abolish the family but to bring it to perfection. Along these lines he redefines the family as a community of disciples.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the precious gift of the family. Grant that it may always be a place where we can grow in faith and love.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION—General rule: Prospective operation of the law; exception—In general, laws are to be construed as having only prospective operation. *Lex prospicit, non respicit.* Equally settled, only laws existing at the time of the execution of a contract are applicable thereto and not later statutes, unless the latter are specifically intended to have retroactive effect. A later law which enlarges, abridges, or in any manner changes the intent of the parties to the contract necessarily impairs the contract itself and cannot be given retroactive effect without violating the constitutional prohibition against impairment of contracts. But, the foregoing principle do admit of certain exceptions. One involves police power. A law enacted in the exercise of police power to regulate or govern certain activities or transactions could be given retroactive effect and may reasonably impair vested rights or contracts. Police power legislation is applicable not only to future contracts, but equally to those already in existence. Nonimpairment of contracts or vested rights clauses will have to yield to the superior and legitimate exercise by the State of police power to promote the health, morals, peace, education, good order, safety and general welfare of the people. Moreover, statues in exercise of valid police power must be read into every contract. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, Ortigas and Co., Ltd. V. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 126102, December 4, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Cell phone firms . . .

(From page A17)

module packs over the counter, without having to fill out registration forms or submitting any requirements.

But Salalima said pre-paid subscribers would also have an option to register, "so we can trace their stolen handsets more easily."

He said the memorandum of agreement for this option would probably materialize before the year ends.

The MOA was reached after the National Telecommunications Commission issued an order for cell phone service providers to block in their networks the IMEI of stolen handsets registered in the name of their subscribers.

Before this agreement, victims of cell phone theft could only ask the networks to block the use of their handsets. But these stolen cell phones could still be used in another network.

With the MOA, the use of stolen cell phones would be blocked in the three networks.

From January to June this year alone, the Philippine National Police recorded 522 cases of cell phone snatching nationwide, with most of the thefts happening in Metro Manila. Some of the victims were also killed during the snatching.

Police have also identified at least 13 syndicates specializing in cell phone snatching, but have also reported the arrest of several suspects and the recovery of 288 stolen cell phones from thieves and fences during police operations nationwide.

With the MOA signed by the three service providers, the NTC expects to reduce the number of cell phone snatching cases in Metro Manila.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. warned the public against using their cell phones while in a gasoline station or during a thunderstorm.

Abalos said studies conducted in the United States showed that wavelengths of cell phones could trigger explosions.

Abalos said he recently received a report that lightning struck an avid "texter" in Cabuyao, Laguna.

He said he would ask the local governments of Metro Manila to pass an ordinance prohibiting the use of cell phones in gasoline stations and in areas where flammable fumes are present.

The use of cellular phone while driving was earlier prohibited in Quezon City and Manila after local government officials noted that a number of vehicular accidents in their areas were due to the undisciplined use of cell phones. ***With a report from Nelson F. Flores***

'Someone he knew so . . .

(From page A17)

Mantele said Hayashi was killed between 6 p.m. Sunday and shortly before the discovery of the body.

A neighbor told police he saw Hayashi receive a male guest about 6 p.m. Sunday. Another witness confirmed this and said he saw the same man come to Hayashi's house last week.

Both witnesses said they could identify the man if they saw him again.

Initial investigation showed none of Hayashi's belongings were missing, except for video cassette disc (VCD) player that was last seen in the master bedroom.

Since Hayashi had been living alone for the last five years, men regularly came to clean his house and do errands, Mantele learned from neighbors.

Japanese consul Shinichi Nara brought Hayashi's body to Camp Crame for autopsy yesterday afternoon. The remains are expected to be flown to Japan later.

Philippine National Police Director General Leandro Mendoza yesterday ordered a massive manhunt for Hayashi's killer.

Hayashi initially studied the piano in a music conservatory in Japan until he first saw a harp when he was 16. He first played classical tunes on the harp just like the other conservatory students, but he later shifted to pop and jazz music.

He started playing professionally when he was 21 and toured night spots in Japan. He first came to the Philippines in 1980 upon the invitation of Odyssey Record Bar owner Bambi Fonacier and OctoArts International president Orly Ilacad.

Hayashi did a show at the Ramada Hotel (now Manila Midtown). It was followed by a sellout concert at the Araneta Coliseum with pianist Boy Katindig.

Jazz lovers came to know Hayashi after the release of his version of Jobim's "Wave." But through the years, Hayashi played different types of music, from classical to Broadway and Original Pilipino Music (OPM).

"I would not have decided to settle here if not for the hospitality of the Filipinos," Hayashi told the Inquirer in an interview. "Filipinos are very friendly. And I also love Tagalog songs. I like playing them."

In 1985, Hayashi decided to settle in the Philippines for good. His hit albums include the "Finger Trip" series, "Standing Room Only," "Best of Tadao Hayashi," "Christmas a la Tadao" and "Tadao's Christmas Wish."

Hayashi paid tribute to Filipino composers in three albums – "OPM Special," "Maraming Salamat, Tadao" and "Harping on Pop."

At the time of his death, Hayashi was playing regularly for the lunch crowd at Ciao Bar Ristorante at Dusit Hotel in Makati. He was also teaching private harp lessons.

"He was a very nice man," said Sandra Garcia, Dusit marketing director. "His set was only 45 minutes, but he would gladly do as many encores as he could, depending on the requests of the audience. He really loved entertaining."

Manila . . .

(From page A17)

increase of P23 per month for an average household consuming 30 to 40 cubic meters.

MWCI, which services Metro Manila's east zone, and the Lopez-owned Maynilad Water Services Inc., which services the west zone, are allowed to ask for a basic water rate adjustment each year, especially in the wake of "extraordinary events," such as the peso depreciation.

This increase is known as extraordinary price adjustment or EPA.

The MWSS Regulatory Office, the government body overseeing the operations of the two water companies, will review the separate petitions filed by the Lopezes' MWSI and the Ayalas' MWCI in the next two weeks.

MWCI group director for regulatory affairs and planning Virgilio C. Rivera Jr. also cited the Umiray-Angat Transbasin Project (UATP) of the MWSS as another "extraordinary" event to justify their demand for an increase.

Rivera explained that the MWSS, through the UATP project, is supposed to install separate pipelines bordering the service areas of Maynilad and Manila Water.

"Since completion of the UATP has been delayed for a year, we have continued with what we call cross-bordering flows to avoid any major service disruptions to our customers, especially in the southern part of Manila," Rivera told the Inquirer.

But he said MWCI is also losing money because it had to sell water to Maynilad "at a minimum cost of P2 per cubic meter."

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

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5	FINAL FANTASY
6	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
7	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
8	TOMB RAIDER

CENTERPOINT
7149522-7164416

1	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
2	DR. DO LITTLE 2
3	FINAL FANTASY
4	MAHAL KITA . . .
5	DRIVEN
6	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
7	SWORD FISH
8	TOMB RAIDER
9	TOM CATS
10	ALONG CAME A SPIDER

CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	AMORSEKO
2	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
3	SWORD FISH
4	TOMB RAIDER
5	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
6	TOM CATS
7	FINAL FANTASY
8	DR. DO LITTLE 2
9	MAHAL KITA . . .
10	COMMAND & CONQUER
11	DRIVEN
12	PARU-PARONG LIGAW

CITY MANILA
5238240

1	TOM CATS
2	DR. DO LITTLE 2
3	COMMAND & CONQUER
4	FINAL FANTASY
5	SWORD FISH
6	TOMB RAIDER
7	ATLANTIS
8	DRIVEN
9	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
10	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
11	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
12	MAHAL KITA . . .

MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	TOMB RAIDER
2	TOM CATS
3	ATLANTIS
4	SWORD FISH
5	DR. DO LITTLE 2
6	COMMAND & CONQUER
7	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
8	DRIVEN
9	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
10	FINAL FANTASY
11	MAHAL KITA . . .
12	ALONG CAME A SPIDER

TUTUBAN
2514302

1	FINAL FANTASY
2	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
3	MAHAL KITA . . .
4	PARU-PARONG LIGAW

DIGITAL dts SOUND

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND • EX

CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
2	DR. DO LITTLE 2
3	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
4	MAHAL KITA . . .
5	TOM CATS
6	COMMAND & CONQUER
7	SWORD FISH
8	FINAL FANTASY
9	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
10	TOMB RAIDER
11	AMORSEKO
12	DRIVEN

SOUTHMALL
8066088 • 8066782

1	TOMB RAIDER
2	DR. DO LITTLE 2
3	TOM CATS
4	COMMAND & CONQUER
5	DRIVEN
6	SWORD FISH
7	MAHAL KITA . . .
8	FINAL FANTASY
9	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
10	PARU-PARONG LIGAW

GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820905

1	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
2	MAHAL KITA . . .
3	PANINDA

CEBU
2313878

1	FINAL FANTASY
2	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
3	DR. T AND THE WOMEN
4	DR. DO LITTLE 2
5	ACCIDENTAL SPY
6	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
7	ANGEL EYES

ILOILO
3208422

1	PANINDA
2	CLOSED
3	DR. DO LITTLE 2
4	ACCIDENTAL SPY
5	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
6	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
7	CLOSED
8	DR. T & THE WOMEN

PAMPANGA
3128015

1	SWORD FISH
2	ATLANTIS
3	FINAL FANTASY
4	PANINDA
5	MAHAL KITA . . .
6	PANGAKO IKAW LANG

SUCAT
8294975

1	MAHAL KITA . . .
2	FINAL FANTASY
3	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
4	PANGAKO IKAW LANG

DAVAO

1
2
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4
5
6

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6 STATE-OF-THE-ART
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1	DRIVEN
2	DR. DO LITTLE 2
3	MAHAL KITA . . . KAHIT SINO KA PA
4	PANGAKO IKAW LANG

GLORIETTA 4

1	TOM CATS	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	SWORD FISH	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	FINAL FANTASY THX	in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	RIDE WITH THE DEVIL (Phil. Premiere) Art Film	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	DR. DO LITTLE 2	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	PANGAKO IKAW LANG	in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	ALONG CAME A SPIDER	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	TOM CATS	in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	FINAL FANTASY	in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	ALONG CAME A SPIDER	in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MARTIN NIEVERA CONCERT JULY 20, 21, 26, 27, & 28 Onstage	

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	FINAL FANTASY THX	in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	TOM CATS	in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	DR. DO LITTLE 2	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	PANGAKO IKAW LANG	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	ALONG CAME A SPIDER	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

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EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	FINAL FANTASY
2 (SDTS)	ATLANTIS
3 (DTS)	DR. DO LITTLE 2
4 GOLD (DTS)	SWORD FISH
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	TOM CATS
6 GOLD (SDDS)	TOMB RAIDER
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
8 ([illegible])	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
9 ([illegible])	MAHAL KITA . . .
10 ([illegible])	DRIVEN

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	MAHAL KITA . . .
2	
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	AMORSEKO
6 (DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	
2 (DTS)	MAHAL KITA . . .
3	PARU-PARONG LIGAW

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	MAHAL KITA . . .
2	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
3	AMORSEKO

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
2	MAHAL KITA . . .
3	COMMAND & CONQUER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	FINAL FANTASY
5	PARU-PARONG LIGAW

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	MAHAL KITA . . .
4	AMORSEKO
5	COMMAND & CONQUER
6	FINAL FANTASY
7	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
8	PARU-PARONG LIGAW

LOUIE'S CINEMA LUCASFILM THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010/892.3349

1	HEAD OVER HEELS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
2	TOMB RAIDER

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	SEXSUAL MALICE
2	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
3	MAHAL KITA . . .

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	MAHAL KITA . . .
A	PARU-PARONG LIGAW

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	MAHAL KITA . . .
2	THE LOVER
3	AMORSEKO
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	MAHAL KITA . . .
2	AMORSEKO
3	DRIVEN
4	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
5	COMMAND & CONQUER
6	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
7 (DTS)	DR. DO LITTLE 2
8 (SDDS)	TOM CATS
9 (DOLBY)	FINAL FANTASY

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	MAHAL KITA . . .

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	MAHAL KITA . . .
3	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
4 (SDDS)	TOM CATS
5	COMMAND & CONQUER
6 (DOLBY)	FINAL FANTASY
7 (DTS)	DR. DO LITTLE 2
8	AMORSEKO
9	DRIVEN

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	DRIVEN
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3	COMMAND & CONQUER
4	MAHAL KITA . . .
5 (SDDS)	FINAL FANTASY
6	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
7 (DOLBY)	TOM CATS
8	AMORSEKO

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	MAHAL KITA . . .
3 (DTS)	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
4	TOM CATS
5 (SDDS)	COMMAND & CONQUER

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	MAHAL KITA . . .

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	MAHAL KITA . . .

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson
Lords
Jennet

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
2	MAHAL KITA . . .
3	TOM CATS
4	RESERVE

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	MAHAL KITA . . .

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	FINAL FANTASY
2	MAHAL KITA . . .
3	TOM CATS
4	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
5	PARU-PARONG LIGAW

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	MAHAL KITA . . .
2	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
3	COMMAND & CONQUER
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	TEASER

Baclaran LRT LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	MAHAL KITA . . .
2	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
3	AMORSEKO

Berma
tel 879-2029 or 30

1	MAHAL KITA . . .
2	PARU-PARONG LIGAW

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	PARU-PARONG IGAW
3	MAHAL KITA . . .
4	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	MAHAL KITA . . .
2	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
3 (DTS)	SWORD FISH

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	MAHAL KITA . . .
2 (DTS)	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
3 (DOLBY)	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
4	PARU-PARONG LIGAW

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
2 (DOLBY)	SWORD FISH
3 (DTS)	MAHAL KITA . . .
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	REPLICANT
2	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	MAHAL KITA . . .
2	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
3	TEASER
4 (DTS)	AMORSEKO

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
2	MAHAL KITA . . .
3 (DTS)	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
4	AMORSEKO
5	ONSEHAN

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	MAHAL KITA . . .
2	ALONG CAME SPIDER
3	PARU-PARONG LIGAW

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	MAHAL KITA . . .
2	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
3	AMORSEKO

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	ONE NIGHT IN MC COOL
2	FINAL FANTASY
3	KASIBULAN

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
2	MAHAL KITA . . .
3	CITY OF SIN

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	MAHAL KITA . . .
2 (DTS)	AMORSEKO

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	MAHAL KITA . . .

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	AMORSEKO
2	MAHALKITA . . .
3	ONSEHAN

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
2	HEAD OVER HEELS
3	ATLANTIS
4	AMORSEKO

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	ATLANTIS
2	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
3	PANINDA
4 (DTS ES)	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

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4	DRIVEN
5	TOM CATS
6	SWORD FISH
7	TOMB RAIDER
8	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
9	MAHAL KITA . . .
10	ALONG CAME A SPIDER

ERMITA
536-7009 TO 12

1	TOM CATS
2	DRIVEN
3	DR. DO LITTLE
4	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
5	MAHAL KITA . . .
6	COMMAND & CONQUER
7	FINAL FANTASY

IMUS
(046) 471-8188

1	DRIVEN
2	MAHAL KITA . . .
3	PARU PARONG LIGAW
4	FINAL FANTASY
5	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
6	TOM CATS

NOVALICHES
938-2243

1	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
2	SOON TO OPEN
3	PARU PARONG LIGAW
4	SWORD FISH
5	DRIVEN
6	MAHAL KITA . . .
7	FINAL FANTASY
8	DR. DO LITTLE

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453

1	ATLANTIS
2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
3	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
4	SWORD FISH
5	TOMB RAIDER
6	EVOLUTION

SOON TO OPEN

METRO EAST
ILOILO
SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA

THX DOLBY DOLBY STEREO dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MAHAL KITA . . .
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	DR. DO LITTLE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	FINAL FANTASY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SWORD FISH
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	TOMB RAIDER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	TOM CATS
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	MAHAL KITA . . .
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	GIGIL / TEACHER'S WIFE
ODEON	MAHAL KITA . . .
ODEON-2	COMMAND & CONQUER
ROBEN	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
TANDEM-1	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
TANDEM-2	PANINDA
TIMES	15 MIUTES / ATTACK FORCE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	MAHAL KITA . . .
QUEZON-1	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
REMAR	PARU-PARONG LIGAW
REMAR-2	MAHAL KITA . . .
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	TOM CATS
CINEMA-2	DR. DO LITTLE 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MILA
CINEMA-2	AMORSEKO
CINEMA-3	COMMAND & CONQUER
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SWORD FISH
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-6	PARO PARONG LIGAW
CINEMA-7	ATLANTIS
CINEMA-8	TEASER
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	DR. DO LITTLE 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOM CATS
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	FINAL FANTASY
CINEMA-12	DRIVEN
CINEMA-14	MAHAL KITA . . .
CINEMA-15	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	ATLANTIS
CINEMA-2	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
CINEMA-3	DR. DO LITTLE 2
CINEMA-4	FINAL FANTASY
CINEMA-5	TOM CATS
CINEMA-6	SWORD FISH
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	TOROTOT
CINEMA-2	BATANG MAGDALENA
CINEMA-4	KAKAIBANG KARISMA
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	SPOT
CINEMA-2	MOLATA
CINEMA-4	COLLEGE GIRL

Scorpions concert cancelled

THE ONE-NIGHT performance of Scorpions, Germany's most successful rock band, scheduled Aug. 1 at the Araneta Coliseum, has been cancelled.

In a brief statement, the organizers of the show explained that circumstances and conditions beyond their control compelled the indefinite deferment of the Manila engagement of the popular heavy metal rock band.

All ticket buyers can claim their refunds only from Ticketnet at Araneta Coliseum from Aug. 1 to 15, 2 to 5 p.m.

For more details on ticket refunds, call 911-5555.

Barbie's Cradle at Padi's

AFTER the successful anniversary concert of South Border and the hit one-night performance of Side A Band, Padi's Mindave presents Barbie's Cradle in a special concert tonight.

Barbie's Cradle is led by 22-year-old vocalist Barbie Almalbis, who wrote all the songs in the band's debut album under Warner Music Philippines.

Other band members are Wendell Garcia on vocals, drums and percussion, Rommel de la Cruz on vocals, bass and string arrangement.

Padi's Mindave will also present The Eraserheads on July 26, Rivermaya on Aug. 1, Parokya ni Edgar on Aug. 16 and Freestyle on Aug. 22 and 27.

Join the "New Singing Star Search" competition at Padi's Mindave and the exciting "Battle of the Bands."

For inquiries, call 453-0080 or 414-4930.

New video releases

C-INTERACTIVE Digital Entertainment releases original copies on videos of three exciting movies about bizarre love triangle.

"Double Cross" is an erotic thriller starring Patrick Bergin, Jennifer Tilly and Kelly Preston.

"Dangerous Indiscretion" weaves the sexual lifestyle of the rich and famous, with C. Thomas Howell, Malcolm McDowell and Joan Severance.

"Immortal Sins" takes love into a supernatural high. Stars Cliff de Young, Maryam D'Abo and Shari Shattuck.

For inquiries, call 245-5011 to 12.

LOUIE'S CINEMA

LUCASFILM THX

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HEAD OVER HEELS
(PG-13 RT - 1:30)
Romantic - Comedy

Starring:
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Monica Potter
Sarah O'Hare
Shalom Harlow
Tomico Fraser

July 24 - Tuesday
6:00 PM - HEAD OVER HEELS
8:15 PM - CLOSED (LRP Foundation/ RX 93)
10:30 PM - Head Over Heels

Jurasic Park III
opens Wednesday
July 25

Hear the Difference, Feel the Excitement

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THANKS to all the people we meet who tell us that they enjoy reading this column, and make particular mention of the boost they get from our Boob-tube Booboos. This encourages us to keep listening for those humorous boner on the tube. Our latest "harvest:"

Quiz Show Host: Where are Ivy League universities located? UK? USA? Canada? Or Switzerland?
Contestant: Teacherland?

Contestant: Teacherland!

(*Ay, doble mali!*)

* * *

Quiz Show Host: What is the most famous tourist spot in Pangasinan?

Contestant: The Rizal Monument!(You really don't have the foggiest notion, do you?)

* * *

Host: Our guest cook will now show us the proper way to grill vegetables, so they aren't burned to a crisp. What's the secret, chef?

Guest Cook: To grill vegetables, don't too much, too hot, too near, coming black!

(It's like listening to Tarzan!)

* * *

Host: Can you show us around your beautiful home?

Star: Gladly. *Ito ang aking* dining room, *kasi dito ako kumakain!*

(Duh . . . !)

* * *

Host: Why did you fall for (name of male star)?

Female starlet: *Pogi kasi, e.*

Host: *Sa lahat ng mga* facial features niya, *anong pinaka*-turn-on *sa 'yo?*

Female starlet: *Pinakagusto ko? – Yung kanyang mga ilong!*

(Ay, mga ilong!)

* * *

Host: In today's show, we will have famous designers adivising our celebrity guests on what to wear for different important occasions where they should look their best. Right, (name of designer)?

Designer: Well, I'll try.

Host: Good! For example, here's our beautiful starlet. Can you take a look at her, and tell us what would be the best gown for her if she's going to attend a movie awards ceremony?

Designer: Well, since she's a movie personality, *ang bagay na* gown *sa kanya talaga, yung* fully sequence!

(*Ay*, sequence!)

* * *

Quiz Show Host: Our next question is on Literature. How well do you know playwrights?

Contestant: Uh, playwrights?

Quiz Show Host: For example, **Ben Jonson** called **William Shakespeare** as the "Sweet____of Avon."

Fill in the blank: he was referring to an animal. What animal did he say William Shakespeare was like?

Contestant: Ah, Koala bear?

("William Shakespeare, the Sweet Koala Bear of Avon?" —I don't think so!!!)

'Kakaibang Pop'

KATHA, the organization of Filipino composers, presents "Kakaibang Pop: A Different Taste of Contemporary Pinoy Music" at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, July 27 at the Music Museum in Greenhills, San Juan. Featured artists include **Grace Nono, Noel Cabangon** and **Cynthia Alexander**. Tickets are available at TicketWorld outlets and the Katha office. Call 433-4107.

Aiza Seguerra's time has come, again

BY REMY M. UMEREZ

AIZA Seguerra, the former wonder child star of "Eat Bulaga," is a big star again. Bow.

Less than three months after the release of her Vicor debut album, "Pagdating ng Panahon" the album has been certified quadruple platinum by the Philippine Association of Record Industry (Pari).

Translated into figures, "Pagdating" has sold more than 120,000 copies both in CDs and cassettes. In the local music industry, this is considered phenomenal.

Who would ever think that Aiza would reinvent herself as a singer?

"It was totally unexpected," said Maria Gloria Ocampo-Mozo (MG), Vicor vice president for product and promotions who has been in the recording business for more than a decade. "We know we had a good song, but the response of the public is overwhelming."

MG is humble enough to share the credit for Aiza's album with the various people involved in its conceptualization.

It all begun with a phone call from record producer Margot Gallardo.

"Her friend Armi Araujo from All Media Marketing House wanted Aiza to record only two songs which she could present to prospective clients for commercial purposes," MG recalled. "She invited me to watch Aiza perform at Joekhers (in Cubao) and see if Vicor would be interested in producing the album themselves. Margot thought a direct tie with a recording outfit had more advantages.

"Together with Merle Mercado of the ad and promotions department, we joined Margot, her sister Edith and Armi in watching Aiza. When we arrived (at Joekhers), someone was singing but I did not know it was Aiza. I thought the voice was pretty good. After her performance, I was fully convinced she deserved a break in recording."

That same night MG discovered why Armi was bent on giving Aiza a singing career. For one, Armi believes Aiza has musical talent, having recorded three albums for Alpha when she was still a child. Her voice, though, was unpolished then, and her heart was with television, not singing.

Aiza's mother, *Aling* Caring, urged her daughter to study music at the University of the Philippines and later at the University of Sto. Tomas. Aiza also took up guitar lessons.

When Armi felt Aiza was ready, feelers were sent to some recording outfits, but there were no takers. Incidentally, in Viva's compilation album "Mother of All," Aiza is featured in two cuts but no one seemed to have noticed them.

MG proposed the project to Vicor president John Tan. When Tan gave the go-signal, the brainstorming began.

"When we heard 'Pagdating ng Panahon' we knew we had found the right song which we could release as the carrier single of the album," MG said. "It was a unanimous decision. It is the only original song in Tagalog in the album. All the rest were in English and a few revivals.

"'Pagdating' is tailor-fit for Aiza, who is only 17. It expresses what teeners dream of and hope for. A few revisions had to be made, though. I instructed (composer) Edith Gallardo to convert it into a love song so it could have a wider appeal. The laid-back music of Moy Ortiz (of The CompanY) matches the lyrics well. We had no doubt we had found a winning combination."

MG also wanted to include a song about God, and that song is "I See You Lord." Edith wrote the song in 1998 and did not throw it away. MG was convinced that Aiza could turn it into a hit.

Aiza herself wanted to include a song dedicated to her parents and she found it in "Sorry," which also talks about how much she loves her parents.

The album took almost a year to finish because Aiza is a full-load student at UST and is only free for recordings during weekends. She could not go work in the recording studio beyond midnight since she had morning classes.

MG is amazed at how Aiza has been cooperating in promoting her album.

"Pagdating ng Panahon" has taken the industry by storm. It has revived interest in Aiza. Now almost every TV producer in town wants to feature her on their show.

A second Aiza Seguerra album is being prepared. "Pagdating" the album, meanwhile, could be on its way to becoming a five-time platinum before yearend.

On Aug. 4, Aiza performs in a solo concert at the Music Museum.

Aiza's time has arrived. Again.

PHENOMENAL AGAIN. The response to Aiza's music has been overwhelming, says Vicor VP MG Mozo.

'ALONG CAME A SPIDER'

Caught in a web of few surprises and dearth of motives

BY RUBEN M. CRUZ JR.

REVIEW

JAMES Patterson's novels may not be Pulitzer Prize material, but as escapist entertainment they're right on the money. Sadly, none of the two film translations of his books, "Kiss the Girls" and the recent "Along Came a Spider," have approximated the excitement that his thrillers bring to readers.

For a film categorized as a suspense-thriller, "Spider" has to work doubly hard just to keep the attention of the audience. It opens quite promisingly with a short but gripping prologue involving Patterson's hero, detective and psyche doctor Alex Cross, in a serial-killer bust that claims his partner's life and consequently drives him into a self-imposed exile.

The scene, though blotted by phony digital effects, is a grabber and is executed precisely like the suspenseful opening of a Patterson novel. It sets an engaging tone, which unfortunately the film is never able to sustain.

I've read all of Patterson's books, including his latest, "Pop Goes the Weasel," which I heard is up next for film adaptation. "Spider" is actually his first book but Paramount for some reason chose to make "Kiss the Girls" before it. Not that it matters, because one can get a good sense of Alex Cross' world of psycho killers whether one sees only the sequel or the prequel.

But I would say "Kiss the Girls" is better because its screenplay adaptation stuck closer to Patterson's original story, while "Spider," though retaining the characters and the broad storyline of the book, circumvented some of the book's elements. Perhaps the convoluted plot structure of the original would have been too difficult to translate into film, especially one that only runs for an hour and a half.

Preposterous, illogical

The result is a suspense-thriller that has lost much of its "Patterson-ness." The abbreviations employed by writer Michael Moss diluted the credibility of the characters, most especially the villains, and the condensed storytelling made the film's few surprises seem as if they were pulled out of a hat. They are preposterous and illogical because of the dearth of relevant information, like motives, for instance.

In his books, Patterson does create some of the most imaginative twists but he relates them in a way that always appears plausible. Somehow he always seems to be able to untangle and synchronize the mesh of plot threads in the end, which this hybrid of his book cannot.

Moss writes a plodding screenplay that gets too easily bogged down in the details, thereby ignoring the fact that there's supposed to be tense anticipation flowing throughout the whole film. After the action-packed kidnapping of a senator's daughter—the center of the film's plot—the thrills come in trickles.

Saving grace

The film, though, makes one deviation from Patterson that becomes its saving grace, in fact the saving grace of the entire franchise of films that have been and would be based on Patterson's novels: The adaptations fashion the character of Alex Cross after Morgan Freeman.

In the Patterson novels, Cross is much younger, good looking and sexier. He's a babe magnet, a brainy version of Shaft. If you would think of an actor who'd suit him, the likes of Denzel Washington would immediately come to mind.

But I like the film version of Cross better. I must say that ever since Freeman first appeared as Alex Cross in "Kiss the Girls," I've been reading the Patterson novels with his voice in my mind.

Freeman exudes such a powerful and intimate presence on screen. His elderly Alex Cross is a guru wrestling with inner demons, a struggle that he never lets affect his proficiency or his calm demeanor.

When Freeman's Cross speaks, he speaks with a benevolence and sensitivity that makes even seemingly banal lines profound and penetrating. When he says, "Forgiving yourself is the one thing a person cannot do," you remember. The script doesn't allow a deeper characterization for Cross but leaves it up to Freeman to help the audience read between the lines.

Fairly entertaining

Aside from Freeman, the polished look and feel of "Spider" makes it fairly entertaining. The musical scoring of Jerry Goldsmith helps inject some tension during long stretches when nothing significant seems to be happening.

Director Lee Tamahori ("Mulholland Falls," Once Were Warriors") and cinematographer Matthew Leonetti swathes the film with a dark, gloomy quality that's perfect for the genre.

Michael Wincott and Mika Boorem also deliver noteworthy performances while the rest of the cast seem to be drifting in limbo, though that's not entirely their fault. Wincott plays Gary Soneji, the twisted and ambitious kidnapper who deliberately involves Cross in the police investigation of his crime because he wants the whole world to know how good he is. This guy was born with a face typecast for villainy and he uses this asset quite well.

Boorem was last seen as one of Mel Gibson's daughters in "The Patriot." Here she plays the kidnapping victim, Megan Rose (there were actually two kidnapping victims in the original story). The always cute but always listless Monica Potter plays one of her Secret Service details who wants to help Cross to atone for her failure to protect her principal or VIP (In the book, her character becomes a love interest for Cross).

Though she's given enough screen time, Potter gives another forgettable performance. Maybe having spent some time with Freeman on the set would help her become a better actor in her next film.

"Spider" is not the most exciting suspense story that its billing claims it is, but it's not trash, either. It's not a must-see, but it's also not unwatchable.

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ATLANTIS - GP 11:15, 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15	ALONG CAME A SPIDER - P 13 11:30, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10	DR. DOLITTLE 2 - GP 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
FINAL FANTASY - P 13 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	TOM CATS - R 18 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00	SWORD FISH - R 18 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30

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MTRCB Rating
Parental Guidance 13

MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted
Strictly for ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

JET LI
BRIDGET FONDA
KISS OF THE DRAGON

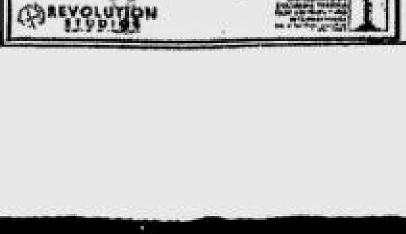
ASIAN DRAGON UNLEASHED ONCE MORE

JET LI, top Asian box-office superstar, teams-up with producer Luc Besson (director of "The Fifth Element") and action choreographer Cory Yuen in an exciting slick, action thriller loaded with ferocious two-fisted, fleet-footed fight scenes that rank with the classic street fighting of Bruce Lee's "Enter the Dragon" and Jet Li's own "Fist of Legend".

In an original story by Jet Li himself, he plays Liu Jiuan, a Chinese police officer trapped in a deadly conspiracy while on an assignment in Paris, who comes to the aid of Jessica (Bridget Fonda), an American forced into prostitution by a villainous cop.

Kiss fear goodbye. Witness the skill, the speed and the power of Jet Li in KISS OF THE DRAGON.

OPENS IN MANILA ON AUG. 1



7th Sexy Date Movie DAY!

Introducing, the "Tomcats," tropa ng free-wheeling, sex-obsessed guys, na walang inatupag kung hindi maka-iskor at magbilang ng nobya.

Nagpustahan ang barkada – sino ang huling barako na di patatali sa pag-aasawa?

Matapos ang ilang taon, sina Michael (Jerry O'Connell ng JERRY MAGUIRE) at Kyle (Jake Busey ng STARSHIP TROOPERS) na lang ang natitirang bachelor sa grupo.

Upang manalo sa pusta, ise-set up ni Mike si Kyle with super-seductive Natalie (Shannon Elizabeth ng SCARY MOVIE, AMERICAN PIE). Nguni't di niya inaasahan na maiinlab din pala siya sa sexing dalaga. Manalo man siya sa pusta, maglalaho naman ang true love niya!

Silipin din sa hilarious sexy comedy from Columbia Pictures sina Playboy playmates Julia Schultz at Amber Smith. Rated R.

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

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Gov't to issue ₱5B in dollar-linked IOUs

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE GOVERNMENT will issue a low-yield but dollar-linked two- and three-year debt papers worth at least P5 billion to give investors a chance to hedge against the peso's weakness and at the same time help bridge a gaping budget deficit.

The debt papers will be paid out based on the peso-dollar exchange rate at the time of maturity.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the government had mandated three investment banks to underwrite the new borrowing. These are RCBC Capital, Multinational Investment Bancorporation, and Deutsche Bank.

"The issuance will be able to help the government ease the pressure on the foreign exchange market by issuing dollar-linked instruments. Also the government will be borrowing at rates favorable compared to the prevailing market rate," Camacho said in a statement.

Sources in the financial market said the yields on the two-year debt paper would be about 9.5 percent while the three-year paper would offer a yield ranging from 10.3 to 10.6 percent.

The yields were comparable to the rates of the dollar-denominated Republic of the Philippine debt papers and lower than treasury bill yields of 10.86 percent for six-month papers.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the policy-making Monetary Board welcomed the new instrument and would readily approve the finance department's new borrowing.

Buenaventura said the new borrowing would discourage people from buying dollars in the spot market and investing these in dollar-denominated papers.

For instance, a bank or an investor that would buy P100 million worth of these papers would earn a yield based on the prevailing rate of two- and three-year Philippine debt papers.

But the principal amount would be paid at the prevailing exchange rate at the time of maturity. If the peso falls in two to three years to a level lower than the time the investment was made, then the investor gets an additional return.

If the peso is stronger by the time the debt paper matures, then the government would have additional earnings.

"The instrument aims to reduce pressure on domestic interest rate as the notes will fill in part of the financing gap that would otherwise be met by increased domestic borrowing," Camacho said.

Meantime, fixed-income market yesterday bucked the efforts of the government to let the yield of the 91-day treasury bills go up to help prop up the peso as the government's benchmark borrowing rate slid by 2.3 basis points to 8.935 percent.

Yields of longer-dated treasury bills, however, soared by 37.2 basis points and 22 points to 10.861 percent for the 182- and 364-day government debt papers.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the 91-day treasury bill rate was expected to go up by 5 to 10 points next week while rates of the longer-term instrument should soften by 10 to 20 basis points in next week's auction.

"We think the market remains nervous and some have a different view of the government's direction. If we would resist the higher rates, it would just be more problematic," he said.

Edeza denied that by accepting higher bids yesterday, he was giving in to the request of Finance Secretary Camacho to let the government's benchmark borrowing rate align with the level of the Bangko Sentral's 9-percent borrowing rate.

Camacho had promised the BSP that the finance department would let treasury bill rates go up slightly to help lure funds back to the treasury bill market from the foreign exchange market and ease the speculation against the peso.

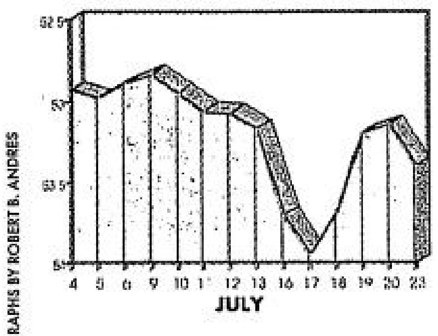
"We could not let rates go up unless it was market-driven. We did not resist the higher rates because there was volume," the national treasurer pointed out.

Edeza added that the treasury's decision to accept higher bids for longer-dated treasury bills should benefit the peso since the funds would be locked-in on a 10 or longer than the 91-day instrument.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

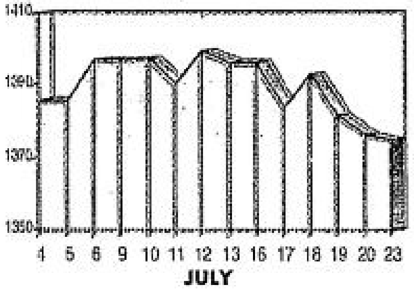
₱ 53.40 = $
As of 5 p.m.,
July 23, 2001

¥ 123.64 = $1
The US dollar was trading
at 124.64 as of 5 p.m.,
July 23, 2001

GOLD:$269.10/269.60
per ounce Hong Kong,
July 23, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares end down

SHARES inched lower at the close of trading yesterday as most investors stayed on the sidelines to await President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address after the market closed, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 1.53 points, or 0.1 percent, at 1374.83, adding to Friday's 0.4-percent loss.

The lackluster performance of the stock market was largely sentiment-driven, with investors frustrated over the lack of fresh concrete moves to resolve the country's political and economic malaise, said A&A Securities research head Astro del Castillo.

Investors hoped Arroyo's address would not just contain general statements, but also concrete policies that will effectively address the country's problems, he said.

"Investors want to see concrete policies put into action," he said. "But that may take around six months to do. Such reforms can't be done overnight."

Foremost among investors' concerns are the country's deteriorating peace and order problem, the government's widening budget deficit, rising inflation and interest rates, the weak peso as well as the global economic slowdown, which has slowed down exports. *AP*

FCDU loans down 10%

A WEAKER peso in the first quarter pulled down the level of outstanding dollar loans from locally operating banks by 10 percent to $6.106 billion from $6.806 billion a year ago.

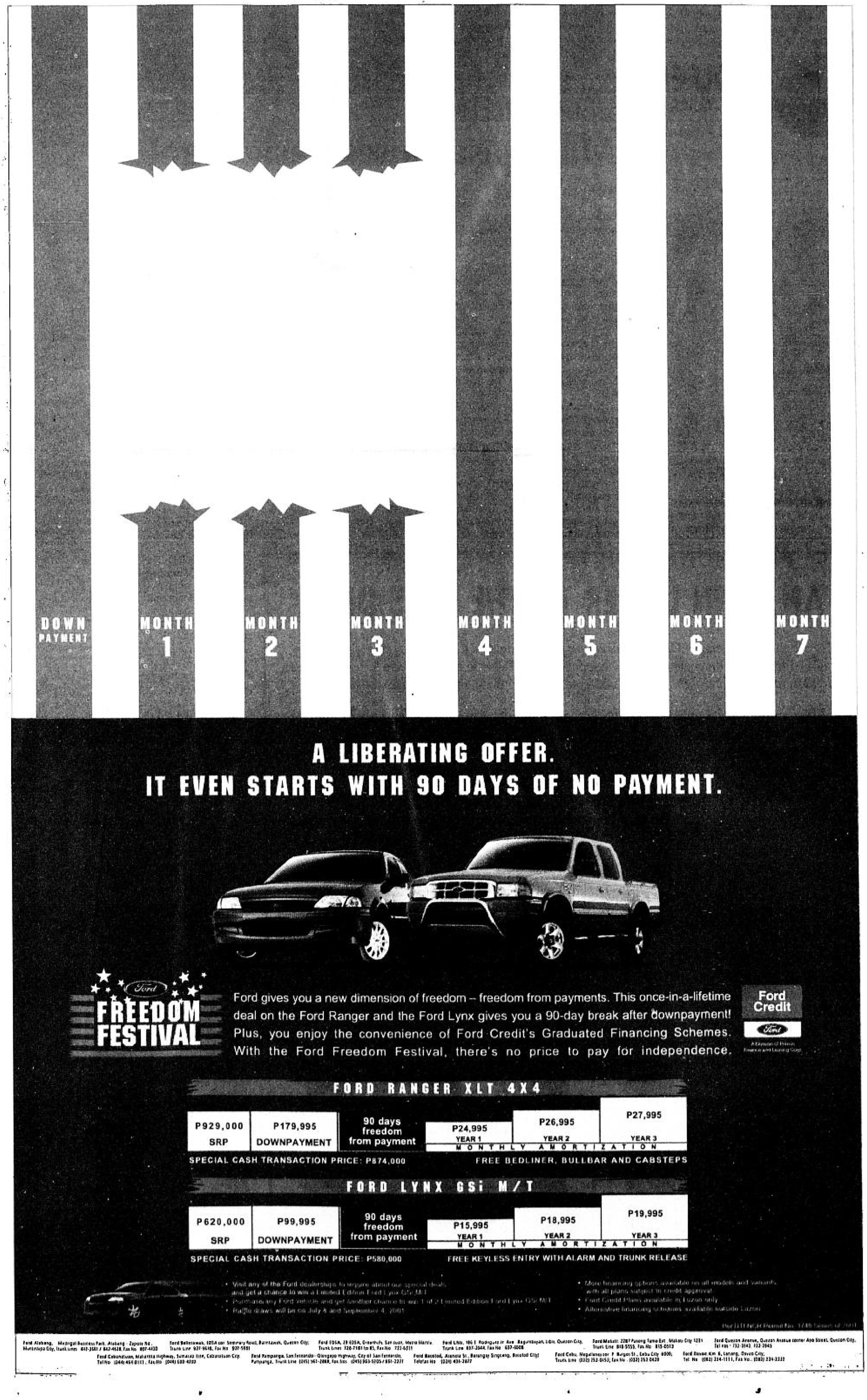
Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that on a quarter-to-quarter basis, the loans from the banks' foreign currency deposit units or FCDUs slid by 2 percent from $6.242 billion as of end-December last year.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the decline in FCDU loans in the first quarter was due to an $80-million net payment and a $56-million adjustment arising from the strengthening of the greenback against the peso.

From slightly below 40 to $1 at the start of year 2000, the peso had deteriorated to 52 by the end of last year. In the last few days of the Estrada administration, the currency slid to a historic day low of 55.75 and closing low of 54.79 to $1.

The peso bounced back to 47 to 49 to $1 in the first few weeks of the Macapagal-Arroyo's administration only to resume its weakness since late last month.

The BSP said the peso had dropped by 7.7 percent in value on a year-to-date basis.


DOWN PAYMENT
MONTH 1
MONTH 2
MONTH 3
MONTH 4
MONTH 5
MONTH 6
MONTH 7

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SRP	DOWNPAYMENT		YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
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SPECIAL CASH TRANSACTION PRICE: P874,000
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SRP	DOWNPAYMENT		YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
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MONTHLY AMORTIZATION

SPECIAL CASH TRANSACTION PRICE: P580,000
FREE KEYLESS ENTRY WITH ALARM AND TRUNK RELEASE

Local bourse readies listing of P8B in privatization bonds

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE LISTING of the national government's P8 billion worth of progress or privatization bonds on the fixed income board of the Philippine Stock Exchange will finally push through next month or in early September.

Roberto Juanchito Dispo, senior vice president of issue underwriter First Metro Investment Corp., told reporters that certain technical kinks were still being ironed out to jumpstart the trading of these fixed income instruments. However, he said these bonds would be ready for listing "by latter August or early September."

The so-called progress bonds are five-year bonds issued by the national government in August last year with a coupon rate of 13.875 percent a year payable quarterly. The bondholders are given the option to exchange the bonds for shares or cash equivalent of government corporations undergoing privatization.

The listing of these bonds is part of the PSE's efforts to offer more fixed income instruments to investors following the weak sentiment in the market.

This will be the second batch of fixed-income instruments to be traded on the PSE's fledgling fixed income board. Some P30.35 billion worth of small-denominated treasury bonds maturing in 2004 were listed on the PSE in July last year. These fixed income instruments, however, are still not actively traded in the stock market at present.

Dispo said that the next batch of fixed income instruments to be listed on the PSE should generate better interest because a system of segregation of retail and wholesale trading would be implemented.

"We explained to (PSE president) Mr. (Ramon) Garcia that the very important factor needed to enliven the trade transactions is the proper dichotomization of the trading volume," Dispo said.

"For example, in the progress bond issue, P10 million below will be traded by the brokers while transactions above P10 million will be traded by the government securities dealers. Remember that (these dealers) are into wholesale trading," he said.

Dispo said that as the underwriter, FMIC would encourage the holders of the progress bonds to go to the PSE's fixed income board and trade these instruments.

Meanwhile, Dispo said that what had delayed the listing of the progress bonds was some technical discussion on which system to use. While the PSE has agreed to upgrade its Mactrade system, he said Telerate has also offered to put in place a system for the trading of these bonds.

The earlier target was to list these bonds on the fixed income board of the local bourse last June 22.

FMIC president Francisco Sebastian said: "Hopefully, the progress bonds will provide additional volume to the market. While you are waiting for an upside, you are earning money."

To encourage further activity in fixed-income trading, the PSE is now working on a system to accredit all of its member-brokerage houses to trade fixed-income instruments. Before, there were only six brokers accredited to offer such instruments to retail clients.

FMIC believes that this new instrument is exciting because it is a hybrid government securities instrument convertible to equity stakes on state assets up for privatization.

"The innovative convertibility feature of these instrument makes it ideal for PSE listing as it is cross-linked to equities," First Metro told the PSE in its proposal for the listing.

GOLFERS
CLUB SHARES, INC.
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AS OF JULY 23, 2001

	SELLING	BUYING
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	2,000,000	
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	2,200,000	
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	770,000	750,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"		100,000
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	350,000	
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	950,000	850,000
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	150,000	130,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	210,000	
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	400,000	
10. CLUB FILIPINO	260,000	
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	220,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	400,000	375,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	140,000	100,000
14. FAIRWAYS & BLUEWATER	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	250,000	230,000
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
17. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	400,000	
19. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	450,000	
20. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)	15,500,000	
21. MANILA POLO CLUB	3,700,000	
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	800,000	
23. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	950,000	
24. MANILA YACHT CLUB	650,000	
25. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	160,000	150,000
26. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	170,000	160,000
27. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	400,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	280,000	260,000
29. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	400,000	
30. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	550,000	
31. PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB	170,000	140,000
32. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000	
33. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	250,000	
34. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	600,000	
35. ROYAL NORTHWOODS	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
36. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	2,100,000	1,800,000
37. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	500,000	
38. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	950,000	900,000
39. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	800,000	775,000
40. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	195,000	175,000
41. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	300,000	
42. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	9,500,000	

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MOUNTING LOSSES

Mariwasa closes Pasig plant

MARIWASA Manufacturing Inc. of the Coseteng family, one of the country's biggest ceramic and tile manufacturers, yesterday announced its decision to shut down its manufacturing operations in Pasig due to continuing losses.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Mariwasa spokesperson Aurasa Jinawath said the company's board of directors approved on Friday a motion to permanently close down its main factory.

"The board directed the management to serve the proper notices on all parties concerned and to observe the proper procedures mandated by law as regards the separation of employment of employees affected by the decision," Jinawath said.

Mariwasa was incorporated in 1963 and is principally engaged in the manufacture of glazed ceramic floor and water tiles. It claims more than half of the market for these products. It earlier undertook a financial restructuring to be able to tap offshore markets.

Analysts said that with the closure of the main Pasig plant, Mariwasa would likely become simply a holding company. Another possibility, an analyst said, would be to transform itself into a trading company which could, for instance, simply import products from the Cosetengs' Thai partner, Siam Cement Public Co. Ltd., which has a 39-percent stake in the company.

Since 1998, Mariwasa has been seeking to raise additional equity and reduce its debt. Among the cost-cutting measures implemented by the company was the reduction of inventory level to avoid inventory buildup and reduce liabilities. A few years before the closure of the Pasig factory, it had offered an early retirement program for regular employees.

DISCLOSURES

THE LISTING of 2,388,996 common shares of RFM Corp. is set for today.

* * *

ACESITE (Philippines) Hotel Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 15 at 4 p.m. at the Nautilus I of the Holiday Inn Manila, Ermita, Manila. Record date is set on June 30.

* * *

WISE Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 30 at 9 a.m. at the Boardroom, 16/F Tower I, The Enterprise Center, Makati. Record date is set on June 18.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Mariwasa Manufacturing Inc.** approved the motion to permanently stop the manufacturing operations of its plant located at Ortigas Ave. Extension, Bo. Rosario, Pasig City, due to continued losses.

* * *

Elected directors of **A Brown Co. Inc.** were Walter Brown, Annabelle Brown, Victor Juat, Patricia Anne Juat, Josefina Anita King, Guido Alfredo Delgado, Johnny Hernandez, Gerardo Lanuza Jr., Amador Bacani, Robertino Pizarro and Emmanuel Bautista.

* * *

ALASKA Milk Corp. on July 20 purchased 300,000 of its shares at P2.02 per share and 20,000 shares at P2.06 per share for the company's stock buy back program.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **United Paragon Mining Corp.** were Alfredo Ramos, Eduardo Castillo, Carlos Dominguez, Maximo Licauco III, Ricardo Miguel Ramos, Manuel Recto and Augusto Sunico.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **MacroAsia Corp.** were Washington Sycip, Mariano Tanenglian, Lucio Tan Jr., Joseph Chua, Jaime Bautista, George Sycip, Wee Ah Kee, Hans Sy and Peter Favila.

* * *

PURE Foods Corp. disclosed the resignation of Ms. Belen C. Buensuceso as director and elected as new one was Delfin L. Lazaro. ***Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research***

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

We, the *333 Investors' Group Association, Inc.* (hereinafter, the "Group") strongly urge you, Madam President, to immediately recall the appointment of Edgardo B. Espiritu as a *Special Envoy to Multilateral and Bilateral Financial Institutions* with the titular rank of *Ambassador-at-large.*

We were gravely alarmed and extremely apprehensive when we learned of the appointment of Edgardo B. Espiritu. We cannot, however, allow our feelings of disappointment to overwhelm us. Through this Open Letter, we wish to bring to light certain facts with more than justify our vehement and categorical opposition to the appointment of Mr. Espiritu:

- Mr. Espiritu was an integral member of the previous administration as former President Estrada's Finance Secretary. His current appointment under the Arroyo Administration is **tantamount to according him diplomatic immunity** from any and all legal actions for which he may be accountable.

- We are victims of the fraudulent investment scheme perpetrated by **Westmont Investment Corporation (WINCORP)**, a corporation in which Mr. Espiritu was once **a major stockholder and prime mover**. In fact, his son **John Anthony Espiritu** was, until recently, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of **WINCORP**. It should not be overlooked that the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), after conducting a thorough and impartial investigation, found **WINCORP**, its directors and officers, as well as the various branch managers of ***Westmont Bank - UOB Phils.*** were criminally and civilly liable for the "Confirmation Advice" documents issued since the same were "with recourse" documents.

- His appointment has made us extremely apprehensive that the DOJ Investigation, **which has remained unresolved despite the lapse of more than three (3) months since it was deemed submitted for resolution**, will be "railroaded" or "white washed" in favor of his son, **John Anthony Espiritu** and **"CRONIES"**. In fact, his son was never compelled to personally appear to face the charges against him. WE DECRY THE CONTINUING FAILURE OF THE **D.O.J.** TO RESOLVE THE PENDING COMPLAINTS AGAINST **WINCORP** AND **U.O.B.** BRANCH MANAGERS/OFFICERS!!!

- In view of the **WINCORP** Controversy, we believe that the credibility of Mr. Edgardo B. Espiritu has been greatly eroded and diminished. We feel that he is not longer qualified to be appointed as a diplomatic representative of the country ESPECIALLY IN MATTERS INVOLVING FINANCIAL NEGOTIATIONS/BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

Madam President, we strongly urge your administration to **immediately recall the appointment of Edgardo B. Espiritu.** Your administration must not permit that our laws and the orderly administration of justice will be disregarded and desecrated. We challenge you to make good on your promises of principled and moral governance.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, July 23, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	20,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	68	68.5	68	68	207,800
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	36	36	36	36	111,000
First E-Bank Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	2,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	206	207	203	205	90,800
Philippine National Bank	40	40	40	40	19,000
Phil. Savings Bank	30	30	30	30	10,000
Rizal Comm'l Bkg Corp. A	19	19	19	19	500
Union Bank of the Phil.	24.5	25	24.5	25	4,200
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	40,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	215	215	215	215	300
Manulife Financial Corp.	1425	1430	1425	1430	5,720
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1250	1260	1250	1260	2,290
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Abs-Cbn Broadcasting Corp.	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	2,100
Diversified Fin. Network	6.6	7.1	6.6	7.1	3,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	160,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	680	680	680	680	530
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	54,800,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.7	16,000
Piltel	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	20,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	30,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	665	665	660	665	18,270
Ivantage Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	120,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.033	0.034	0.033	0.034	20,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	37.5	37.5	37.5	37.5	5,100
Manila Electric Co. B	48.5	49	48	48.5	528,700
Petron Corp.	1.98	2	1.98	2	442,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	20,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.2	2.24	2.2	2.2	833,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	10,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.6	4,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.2	5,051,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.02	2.02	1,072,000
Cosmos Botling Corp.	4.7	4.85	4.7	4.75	582,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	14	13.5	13.75	1,134,300
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	16,000
RFM Corp.	2.38	2.38	2.26	2.28	3,039,000
San Miguel Corp. A	43	43	42.5	43	678,400
San Miguel Corp. B	54	55.5	54	55.5	1,226,400
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	6,312,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	241,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.28	1.28	1,318,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0095	0.0075	0.0095	875,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2	2	2	2	4,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	200
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.94	1.94	1.88	1.88	3,583,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.96	0.98	0.96	0.98	110,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	32	32.5	31.5	32	365,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	20,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	30,000
Ionics Inc.	11.25	11.25	10.75	10.75	14,800
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.02	2.02	1.98	1.98	170,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	22,000
Medco Holdings	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	30,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.71	0.72	0.7	0.72	2,690,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.46	300,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	6	6	6	6	1,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	400,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	6	6	6	6	22,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	30,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	10,000
Music Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.8	1.8	54,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	150,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15	15	15	15	5,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	950,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.5	530,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	14,000,000
Manila Jockey Club	18	18	18	18	3,867,000
Philippine Racing Club	5	5.1	5	5.1	15,410,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
Abs-Cbn Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	39.5	39.5	39	39	1,400
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	605,700
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	2,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.02	0.02	0.018	0.019	32,200,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.9	4.95	4.85	4.85	3,090,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	320,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	3,000,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	350,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.02	2.06	2.02	2.02	1,769,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	2,500,000
SM Development Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	40,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	27,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	5,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	10,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.05	0.055	0.05	0.055	56,500,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	870,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.004	27,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.022	10,800,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.48	150,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.5	350,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	8,200,000
Interport Res.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	17,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	523,610	49,147,700.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,051,373,390	437,815,180.00
PRO	11,196,000	25,067,520.00
Mining	110,670,000	3,838,150.00
OIL	29,400,000	329,500.00
GRAND TOTALS:	1,203,236,000	516,464,250.00
	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	552.86	DOWN 2.98
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,960.63	UP 3.07
PRO	517.79	DOWN 1.14
Mining	1,446.14	UP 5.08
OIL	1.75	DOWN 0.01
All Shares Index	792.73	DOWN 2.94
Composite	1,374.83	DOWN 1.53

NO. OF ADVANCES: 27; NO. OF DECLINES: 29; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 48;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 104; NO. OF TRADES: 2,044

CURRENCIES

July 23, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.146789	1.000000	53.2100
Japan	Yen	0.009331	0.008137	0.4330
United Kingdom	Pound	1.640596	1.430600	76.1222
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.147036	0.128215	6.8223
Switzerland	Franc	0.664805	0.579710	30.8464
Canada	Dollar	0.743606	0.648424	34.5026
Singapore	Dollar	0.628929	0.548426	29.1817
Australia	Dollar	0.579127	0.504999	26.8710
Bahrain	Dinar	3.042042	2.652661	141.1481
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.305794	0.266652	14.1886
Brunei	Dollar	0.626455	0.546269	29.0670
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000090	0.0048
Thailand	Baht	0.025050	0.021844	1.1623
UAE	Dirham	0.312306	0.272331	14.4907
Korea	Won	0.000885	0.000772	0.0411
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.872000	46.3991
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.445847	23.7235
France	Franc	0.152450	0.132936	7.0735
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.395696	21.0550
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.063371	3.3720
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021616	1.1502
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000450	0.0239
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.146660	7.8038
Portugal	Escudo	0.004989	0.00435	0.2315
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005241	0.2789
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.021616	1.1502
Ireland	Punt	1.269739	1.107212	58.9148

Members oppose plan to put up casino at Subic Yacht Club

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

CREDITOR banks of the Subic Bay Waterfront Development Corp. (SBWDC) are moving to firm up their control of the board in order to carry out a plan to build a Las Vegas-type family entertainment center at the Subic Yacht Club.

But restaurateur Victor "Vic-Vic" Villavicencio is leading a group of club members to oppose the establishment of a casino at the Subic Yacht Club, which he founded.

Villavicencio used to control SBWDC until the 12 creditor banks, led by Land Bank of the Philippines, foreclosed on the businessman's P1 billion in loans early this year.

The creditor banks have proposed to improve the services offered by the facility and increase revenues by allowing them to name 10 instead of five nominees on Subic Yacht Club's 11-member board.

The banks are keen on taking over the club's operations in order to make it more attractive to investors in line with its plan to sell its interest through a bidding tentatively set on Aug. 2 this year.

The creditor banks, as a group, are the single biggest stockholder of the Subic Yacht Club owning 40 percent or 1,200 shares of the club's 3,000 outstanding shares. However, Villavicencio continues to run the day-to-day operations of the club with his cousin Jose Mari L. Vargas as general manager.

The creditor banks are pushing for the establishment of a second casino in Subic at the Subic Yacht Club to attract a steady stream of customers especially during weekdays. The banks want the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. to run the proposed Subic Yacht Club casino alongside the Legenda casino, which is run by a private firm.

The creditor banks stressed that they were planning to put up not only a casino but also other entertainment facilities that will cater to the entire family much like Las Vegas where tourists flock to go not only to casinos but also to other entertainment centers.

COUNTRY SHARES

As of July 24, 2001

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	1,700,000	1.8 M/2.1 M*
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	-	800,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	350,000	375,000
CANYON WOODS	-	Pls. Call
CAPITOL HILLS	130,000	-
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	210,000	215,000
CLUB FILIPINO	-	300,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	350,000	400,000/450,000*/700,000**
EASTRIDGE A	-	200,000
EVERCREST A/B*	-	150,000/170,000*
FONTANA D/C*/B**	88,000/120,000*	90,000/150,000*/280,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	-	260,000/350,000*/450,000**
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	-	Pls. Call
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	395,000/450,000*	400,000/455,000*
MT. MALARAYAT A/C* (w/lot)**	395,000	400,000/650,000*/2.0 M**
MANILA POLO CLUB	-	3,575,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	800,000/850,000*
METROPOLITAN A/B*	160,000	175,000/180,000*
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	350,000*	240,000/550,000*
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	600,000**	275,000/425,000*
PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN	85,000	90,000
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	150,000	Pls. call*
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	225,000	230,000
RIVIERA A/B*	-	250,000/400,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	600,000	650,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*	100,000	120,000/150,000*
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	250,000/350,000*/450,000**
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.*	400,000*	300,000/500,000*
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	320,000	350,000/550,000*
TAGAYTAY H-LANDS CC/GOLF*	-	430,000/950,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	800,000	840,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	175,000	-
WACK WACK	8.0 M	8.5 M

Available Lessors for Playing Rights: Alabang, Calatagan, Camp John Hay, Canlubang, Canyon Woods, Celebrity, Eagleridge, Eastridge, Forest Hills, Makati Sports, Malarayat, Orchard, Riviera, Sta. Elena, Southwoods, Tagaytay H-lands & Midlands, Valley Golf, Wack Wack, Rockwell & Others

Need Lessors for Playing Rights: Eastridge B, Eagleridge B, Punta Fuego, Rockwell, Sherwood B

Selling: Villas, Belleview, Pinecrest & Woodlands in Tagaytay Highlands; Pacific Plaza (3 bdrm), & Ponte de Salcedo (3 bdrm)

Lots: Eagleridge, Forest Hills, Punta Fuego, Royale Tagaytay & Southwoods

Buying: Orchard Lot Phase 7

Please Call Tel. Nos. 853-1626/27; Globe 0917-5381722 or 0917-5140856

Heinz to expand in RP

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FOOD processing giant H.J. Heinz Co. of the United States has identified the Philippines as one of its four priority areas for investment in the Asia-Pacific region. The others are Indonesia, China and Thailand.

This was revealed by William R. Johnson, Heinz chair and chief executive officer, who was in Manila yesterday on a short visit as part of his Asia-Pacific tour. Johnson left yesterday afternoon after paying President Macapagal-Arroyo a courtesy visit.

Johnson told the Inquirer that Heinz remained bullish on the Philippine market despite the economic and political upheavals on expectations that the Philippines will eventually recover.

"We are very positive towards the Philippines and we are looking to increase our presence here. We are committed to Asia because we feel that it is the area outside the US and Europe where Heinz will grow," Johnson said in the interview Sunday night.

Johnson said Heinz was looking at an increased share of the market in the tomato ketchup business through its partnership with Nutri-Asia, the holding company of Universal Food Corp. and Southeast Asia Food Inc.

UFC manufactures UFC Banana Catsup while SAFI manufactures other major banana catsup brands Papa and Jufran, as well as the Datu Puti and Mang Tomas brands of sauces and condiments.

Plans, however, are underway for Heinz to introduce its other products such as condiments, snacks and meals and different types of sauces.

H.J. Heinz is one of the world's leading marketers of branded foods to supermarkets and restaurants with over $10 billion in sales as of last year. Its 50 companies operate in 200 countries and distribute more than just the Heinz tomato ketchup.

H.J. Heinz also manufactures tuna, frozen food, infant food and pet food. Its products serve different income markets from the low-end to high-end buyers and also services the requirements of food outlets such as McDonald's, Burger King and Wendy's.

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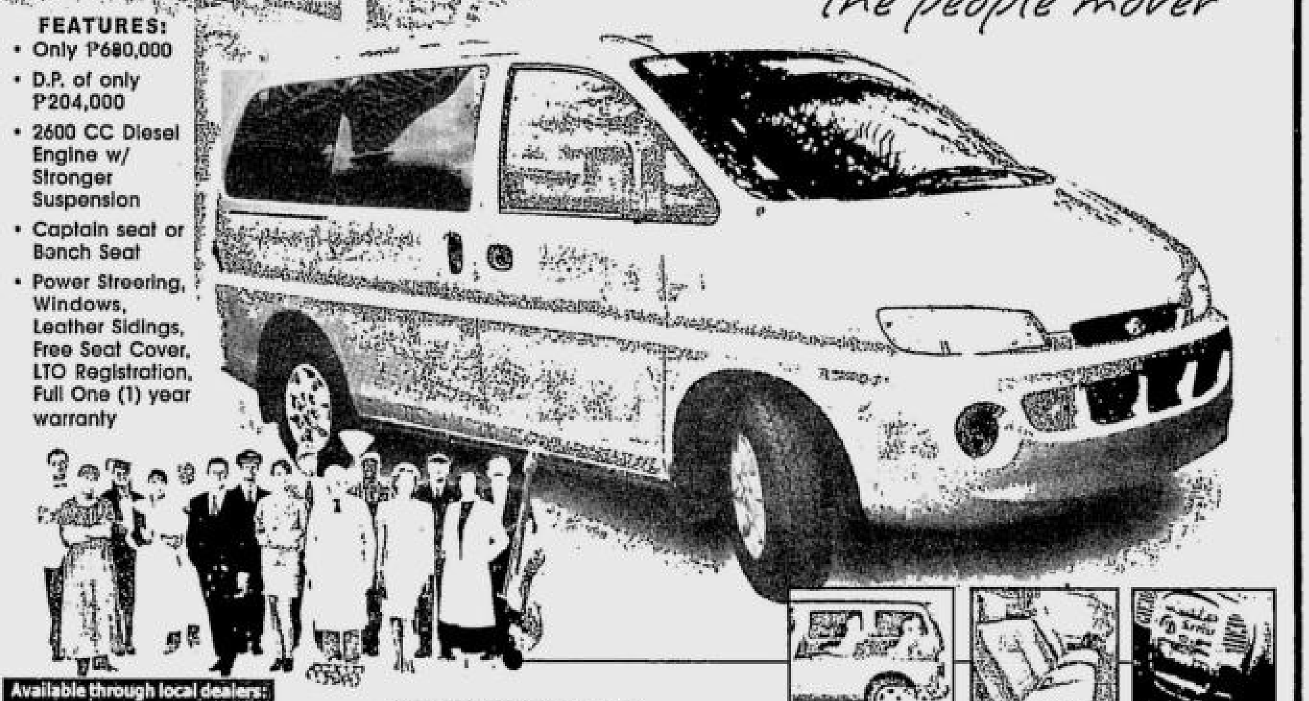

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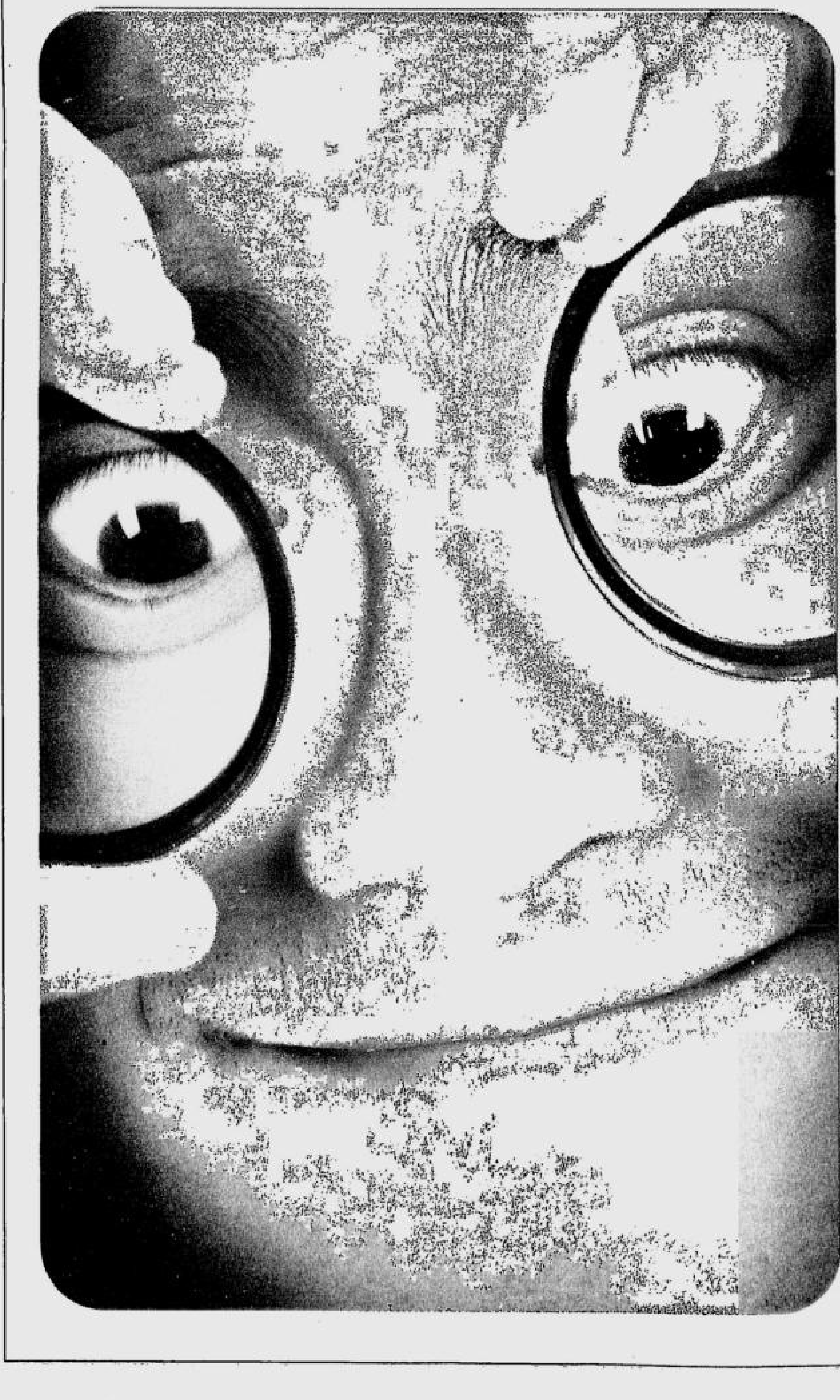
MON.-FRI. (9 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (9 AM - 3 PM)



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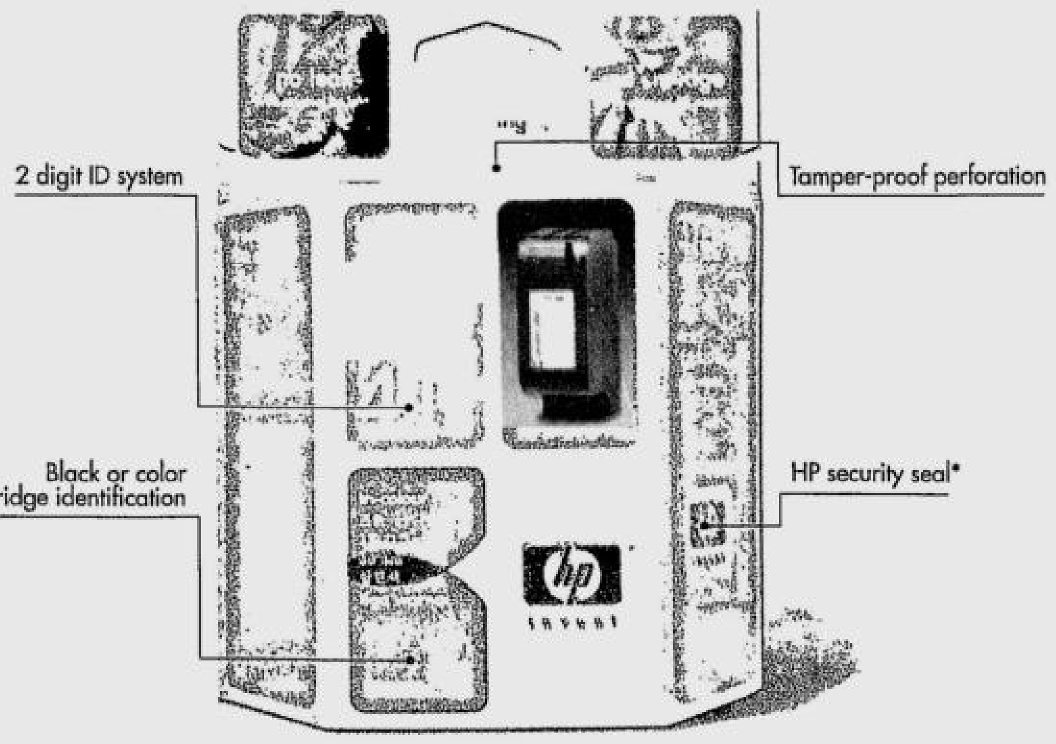

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US dollar is not too strong—Treasury chief

WASHINGTON—US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill said Sunday the dollar was not too strong at its current levels, as a strong dollar continued to be of benefit to the US economy.

"No," O'Neill replied when asked by an interviewer on Fox News Sunday whether the dollar was too strong. "I believe a strong dollar is in the interests of the United States."

O'Neill had laughed at the question—a query that had almost become a ritual in his encounters with reporters.

He had already said he would rent New York's "Yankee stadium and a brass band" as a suitable venue for any announcement of a change in US exchange-rate policy, he jokingly reminded the Fox interviewer.

"Until then, anything anyone might say notwithstanding, we're not going to change the strong dollar policy," he said.

O'Neill said he believed the US economy had turned the corner—in apparent contradiction with the more pessimistic comments from Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan earlier this week.

The US economy could be set to bounce back to a 3-percent annual gross domestic product growth by next year, O'Neill said.

"We're going to see a return to a better rate of real growth in the fourth quarter and into next year. Most of us are looking for something over 3-percent real growth in 2002."

Greenspan on Wednesday said the US economy was slowly emerging from a period of "sub-par" performance, but that "uncertainties surrounding the current economic situation are considerable, and the risks would seem to remain mostly tilted toward weakness in the economy."

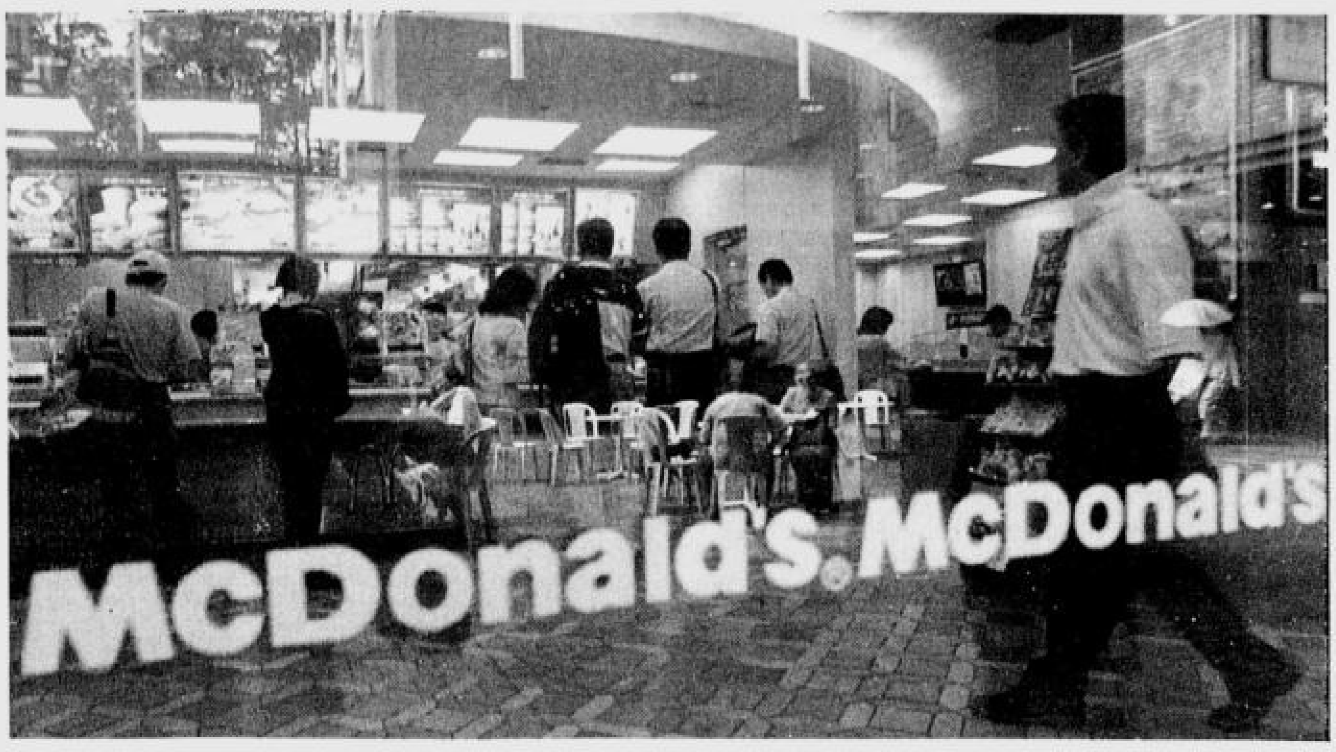
The foreign-exchange markets were kept on edge by a comment from US President George W. Bush on Thursday, which he reiterated Sunday, about the level of the dollar.

"The best way to determine the price of the dollar is to let the market determine that price," Bush said Thursday.

Presidential comments on the level of the greenback have become a rarity since the time of Bush's predecessor, Bill Clinton, who opted to avoid remarks likely to influence the foreign exchange markets.

These markets now parse with close attention any remarks made by members of the Bush administration, as the US manufacturing sector increasingly argues that dollar strength is putting a drag on exports.

The strong dollar has also been linked by some commentators to Argentina's current financial woes, on the grounds that with the Argentine peso pegged to the dollar, exporters there are also finding their products overpriced for many markets. *AFP*



PEOPLE wait at the counter in a McDonald's in Tokyo. The arrival of McDonald's in Japan helped change the eating habits of a nation, wooing rice lovers to burgers and fries, making fast-food a part of everyday life and marking the birth of a business empire. Thirty years later, McDonald's Co. Japan is becoming a publicly listed company, a first among the McDonald's outside the United States, making its initial public offering next Thursday on the Jasdaq market for ventures. AP

Japan's June trade surplus falls

TOKYO—Japan's trade surplus with the world fell 36.1 percent in June from a year ago for the fifth straight month of year-on-year decline, the government said Monday.

The merchandise trade surplus—the measure of all goods exported minus those imported—came in at 761.7 billion yen ($6.19 billion), the Finance Ministry said.

The June surplus was larger than expected. Economists surveyed by Dow Jones Newswires had estimated that Japan would report a surplus of 739.4 billion yen ($6.01 billion).

Also, the ministry announced that Japan's trade surplus for the first six months of 2001 fell 44 percent on year to 3.20 trillion yen ($25.9 billion).

Exports in the January-June period fell 0.1 percent on year to 25.03 trillion yen ($203 billion) while imports grew 12.8 percent to 21.83 trillion yen ($177 billion). The trade surplus with the United States fell 6.1 percent to 3.46 trillion yen ($28.1 billion) in the period.

June's surplus followed declines of 86.1 percent in May, 41.6 percent in April, 17 percent in March and 25.4 in February. In January, Japan posted a merchandise trade deficit for the first time in four years.

The United States and other trading partners have long urged Japan to cut its surplus by stimulating domestic demand for imports. But consumer spending here has remained sluggish amid high unemployment aggravated by corporate restructuring and a prolonged economic slump.

Japan's at times politically sensitive surplus with the United States also fell, declining 8.3 percent in June on year to 586.1 billion yen ($4.77 billion), the ministry said. For the first six months of this year, it declined 6.1 percent to 3.46 trillion yen ($28.1 billion.) *AP*

McDonald's Japan goes public

TOKYO—The arrival of McDonald's in Japan helped change the eating habits of a nation—wooing rice-lovers to burgers and fries, making fast food a part of everyday life and marking the birth of a business empire.

Thirty years later, McDonald's Co. Japan is becoming a publicly listed company—a first among the McDonald's operations outside the United States—making its initial public offering Thursday on the Jasdaq market for ventures.

At a price of 4,300 yen ($35) per share for 26.2 million shares, the IPO is expected to earn about 50 billion yen ($405 million) and promises to be one of the hottest in Japan this year.

Going public is part of McDonald's move to grow even bigger and raise its corporate profile even higher in Japan.

McDonald's—rendered "Ma-ku" in Japanese shorthand—is believed to control about 65 percent of the fast-food burger market here, racking up 430 billion yen ($3.5 billion) in sales and serving 1.3 billion customers a year. That works out to every Japanese visiting a Golden Arches an average of 10 times a year. *AP*

G8 leaders say rioters drown out help for poor

GENOA, Italy—World leaders wrapped up a summit here complaining their achievements for the poor were drowned out by riots, in which a demonstrator was shot dead.

The Group of Eight powers say violence has overshadowed their launch of a $1.3-billion global fund to fight AIDS and a commitment to help lift Africa out of poverty.

"For the first time, we have actually got a positive, definitive process and plan for dealing with the problems of Africa, and yet if you measure the amount of coverage for protests and Africa, it would have been a ratio of 10 to one in favor of the riots," British Prime Minister Tony Blair said. "The world has gone mad when that is the case."

The leaders conceded their summits were oversized.

"It has become a very, very big thing. It is getting out of control," said Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, who was to host next year's G8 summit from June 26 to 28 in the Rocky Mountain resort of Kananaskis in the Canadian province of Alberta.

G8 delegations, now numbering up to 900 people, would be slashed to a maximum of 35 each, he said. "If you want to come, bring a sleeping bag."

But the leaders refused to abandon future summit meetings in the face of violence.

"I am sorry there were some people hurt, but we have to meet," said a determined Chretien.

"We are discussing some very serious problems, he said at the end of the three-day meeting here, where streets littered with smashed glass are dotted with looted stores.

"If the anarchists want to destroy democracy, we will not let them succeed," Chretien added. "We have to meet and we are going to meet."

In a strident answer to protesters' criticisms, the G8 leaders issued a final communiqué in defense of globalization after the biggest demonstrations mounted since violent protests erupted in Seattle in December 1999. *AFP*

Gloomy view highlights Fed debate

WASHINGTON—As Wall Street analysts listened to Alan Greenspan's surprisingly downbeat testimony on the US economy last week, a telling moment came when a lawmaker asked him to pinpoint the timing of a recovery.

The Federal Reserve chief hesitated, then said reluctantly, "If I have to make a forecast toward the end of this year, we will see things improving and clearly so next year."

Fed watchers said the chair's reticence underscored a difference of opinion within the marbled walls of the central bank: Greenspan was more worried than many of his colleagues that economic events could worsen before they get better.

"The crucial question is: How much economic stimulus do we have in the pipeline?" said economist Jan Hatzius of Goldman Sachs in New York. *Reuters*

SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

7:00 am Registration
8:00 am **Welcome Remarks**
Arcy Canumay, Interim-President, PhilWAPP
8:15 am **Winning in the Wireless Revolution**
How wireless technology will change the way we live and work
Peter S. Cohan
9:15 am **I demo "i-mode"**
A guided tour of the world's most successful wireless strategy
Takeshi Natsuno, Executive Director, Gateway Business Dept., NTT DoCoMo
10:15 a BREAK
10:45 am **Panel Discussion: The Wireless Pinoy**
How the Filipino has embraced wireless technology and the impact this will have in the country's future
Moderator: Michael Alan Hamlin
Panelists to speak on:
- the Globe experience
- the sociology of "texting" and its implications on the country
11:45 am Close of Plenary
2:00 pm **BUSINESS TRACK**
- Wireless Portals, Gaming and Entertainment (Ericsson)
- Wireless Marketing (Globe Telecom)
- Wireless Financial Services (Globe Telecom)
- Wireless CRM (Globe Telecom)
- Wireless Enterprise Resource Management (IBM)
- Wireless PDA Applications (Mapalad)
- Wireless Data Mining (Nokia)

TECH TRACK
- WAP: Today and Future (Nokia)
- GPRS/2.5G AND 3G Infrastructure (Globe Telecom)
- SMS, EMS and MMS (Ericsson)
- Wireless Java/J2ME (Sun)
- XML in Wireless Application/Web to WAP (IBM)
- Wireless location-based services (Nokia)
- Bluetooth (Ericsson)

6:30 pm Closing Session and Raffle

Special Sessions at the P2P Room (on-going) (Prospects to Partnerships)
Scheduled talks from key companies for interested wireless application and technology developers on how to make a profit in the wireless business.
1:00 pm Nokia
1:30 pm Globe Telecom
2:00 pm IBM
2:30 pm Ericsson
3:00 pm Wireless Services Asia
3:30 pm IdeaFarm
4:00 pm Globe Telecom
4:30 pm Sun Microsystems

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I demo "i-mode" with NTT DoCoMo's Takeshi Natsuno. With over 24-million subscribers, NTT DoCoMo's i-mode service is the industry leader and the paradigm for all the world's telcos. Learn from Takeshi Natsuno, executive director of NTT DoCoMo's Gateway Business Department as he shares the proven strategies of the world's most successful wireless service. Mr. Natsuno oversees the strategic alliances for i-mode with application/content providers and key players in the Internet industry worldwide. Plus, get a preview of FOMA (Freedom of Mobile Multimedia Access) the world's first 3G service.

Technology strategists and best-selling author Peter Cohan will discuss how wireless technology is changing the way we live and work today. Cohan's management consulting firm has helped clients — many of them global leaders in telecommunications, computer networking, systems integration and semiconductors — to identify, evaluate and profit from new business opportunities created by changing technology. A venture capitalist, Cohan is building a growing portfolio of Internet venture investments.

A frequent speaker and TV commentator on high technology, Cohan has authored four books: *e-stocks: Finding the Hidden Blue Chips Among the Internet Imposters; e-Profit: High Payoff Strategies for Capturing the E-Commerce Edge; Net Profit: How to Invest and Compete in the Real World of Internet Business;* and *The Technology Leaders: How America's Most Profitable High-Tech Companies Innovate Their Way to Success.*

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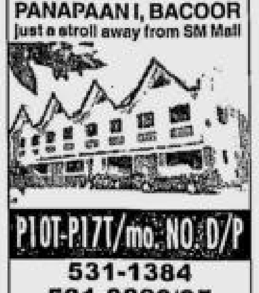

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Philippine Coast Guard - Project Management Office
2nd Floor, S&L Building, 1500 Roxas Boulevard corner
R. Salas Street, Ermita, Manila
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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

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The Department of Transportation and Communications, Philippine Coast Guard - Project Management Office (DOTC PCG-PMO) through the MSIP III - Bid and Award Committee (MSIP III - BAC) is inviting General Contractors for the aforementioned Project.

APPROVED BUDGET : 20.165 MILLION PESOS
SOURCE OF FUNDING : LOCAL COUNTERPART FUNDS (GOP)

The scope of works cover civil, tower erection, electrical installation and other miscellaneous works to complete the Project. Prospective bidders should have valid license and classification issued by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB), with the following particulars:

Category and Classification	IAC Registration
Category "A" Classification: General Engineering	Range: At least Medium "B" Kind of Project: Ports, Harbor and Offshore Engineering

Pre-qualification Documents shall be available for issuance to interested bidders for free from 18 to 24 July 2001 at the address given above.

However, the Bid Documents, Plans and Drawings will only be issued to eligible bidders upon the payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (PHP 5,000.00) at the Cashier's Office, PCG-PMO.

The deadline for the submission of duly accomplished Pre-qualification Statements shall be on 26 July 2001, 10:00 AM at PCG-PMO.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE : 06 AUGUST 2001
SUBMISSION/OPENING OF BID PROPOSAL : 27 AUGUST 2001

The MSIP III - BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) WILFREDO M. TRINIDAD
Undersecretary and Chairman,
MSIP III - BAC

(PDI – July 19, 23 & 24, 2001)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Juan Anacleto F. Fortich has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs on June 11, 2001 under Doc#170; Page #51; Book#1;Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Joseph L. Guevarra of Muntinlupa, Metro Manila (PDI-July 24,July31&Aug 7,2001)

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ADELINA GALLARES MAYUGA

of Tagbilaran City, Bohol

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 21, 2001
at the age of 80.

Her husband **Dr. Pedro Mayuga** (†); son **Juan Salvador** (†); daughter-in-law **Corazon**; grandchildren **Peter John**, **Richard John** and **Jara Adelade**; brother **Atty. Adilberto Gallares Sr.**; sister-in-law **Sylvia Gallares**; nephews, nieces and other relatives request the pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. She will be laid to rest at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina on Saturday, July 28, 2001 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations for the renovation of Our Lady of Fatima Parish Church, Cordillera Street, Quezon City will be appreciated.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

The Management and Staff of
ROTA INDUSTRIES, INC.
I-GRAF SYSTEM CORP.

Request to announce the untimely demise of

SIONG DIO D. TIUTAN (TAN SUY)

Died in the Grace of our Lord on July 20, 2001
at the age of 92.

We request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 29, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

"The LORD is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want."
Psalm 23

TERESITA SAYO PADUA

Consultant, Office of the First Gentleman; Asst. Sec., Department of Social Welfare & Development, Class 1949, St. Paul College Manila; Theater Artist, Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Returned peacefully to her Creator on July 22, 2001, she is survived by her husband **Atty. Buenhijo D. Padua**, former Revenue District Officer; her children **Marivic** and **Benjie Baluyut**, **Minggoy** and **Aida Padua**, **Cecile** and **Ronnie Carrillo**, and **Toffy Padua**; grandchildren **Crissy**, **Gabby** and **Teddy Boy Baluyut**, **Miggy Boy Padua**, **Patricia** and **Therese Carrillo**; brothers and sisters **Jose** and **Koni Sayo**, **Jaime** and **Lina** (†) **Sayo**, **Carmen Sayo**, **Greta** (†) and **Johnny Ras**, **Nena Sayo** (†), **Cholo Sayo**, and **Anton** and **Mitay Sayo**; parents **Virginia Ll. Sayo** (†), and **Jose V. Sayo** (†).

Interment will be on July 26, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat after the 9:00 AM Mass.

We, the members of the family request for prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

ORLANDO B. CLAVERIA, PH.D.

Retired Director, Tech. Service, DECS
International Consultant, Educational Management and Development

His bereaved wife **Carolina**; children **Sonny**, **Al**, **Ed**, **Beverly** and **Lito**; and grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel B-9 South Wing, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will take place at La Funeraria Paz Crematorium on Friday, July 27, 2001 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

In Loving Memory
Twenty First Death Anniversary
of

RECIO M. GARCIA

who passed away on July 24, 1980

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches today:

Basilica of the Immaculate Conception **(Manila Metropolitan Cathedral)**, *Intramuros, Manila*	7:30 a.m.
Carmel Shrine, *Dona J. Rodriguez Street, New Manila, Quezon City*	7:00 a.m.
Christ the King (Divine Word Mission Seminary) *101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Boulevard, Quezon City*	7:30 a.m.
Immaculate Conception Parish, *39 Lantana Street, Cubao, Quezon City*	7:00 a.m.
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene **(St. John the Baptist Parish)**, *Quiapo, Manila*	7:00 a.m.
National Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary (La Naval de Manila) *Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City*	7:15 a.m.
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice *University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City*	6:00 a.m.
Santuario de San Pedro Bautista Parish, *1104 SFDM, Quezon City*	6:30 a.m.
San Lorenzo Ruiz Minor Basilica **(Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish)**, *Binondo, Manila*	7:30 a.m.
San Jose Cathedral, *San Jose, Antique*	6:00 a.m.
St. Paul the Apostle, *Mother Ignacia corner Timog Avenue, Quezon City*	7:00 a.m.
St. Peter Parish, *Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City*	
Sta. Cruz Parish, *Manila*	8:00 a.m.
Sta. Maria della Strada, *Katipunan Road corner Pansol Street, Quezon City*	6:00 a.m.
Sta. Teresita Del Niño Jesus Parish, *43 Kanlaon Street, Quezon City*	7:00 a.m.
Sto. Niño Parish Shrine, *Bukidnon Street, Bago Bantay, Quezon City*	6:30 a.m.
Society of the Divine Word (S.H.P.) *28 Scout Ybardolaza Street, Kamuning, Quezon City*	7:30 a.m.

On the
Third Death Anniversary
of our beloved

BENILDO GOZAR HERNANDEZ

who passed away on July 24, 1998

the family requests relatives and friends to remember him in prayer. Masses will be offered today for the eternal repose of his soul at the following churches:

St. Joseph Parish Church, Bongabon, Oriental Mindoro	6:00 a.m.
Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows, Quezon City	6:00 p.m.
St. Ignatius Cathedral, Camp Aguinaldo, Murphy	12:15 p.m.
Sacred Heart Parish Church, Kamuning	7:00 a.m.
Sacred Heart Chapel, Camp Atienza, Libis	6:30 a.m.
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, 13th Avenue, Murphy	6:00 a.m.
St. John Bosco Parish, Pasay Road, Makati	6:30 a.m. / 6:00 p.m.
Asian Institute of Management Chapel, Paseo de Roxas	12:30 p.m.
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park	6:15 a.m. / 6:00 p.m.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

GEORGE C. ANG

Founding Chairman and President
Bio Research Inc.
And Interocean Plumbing and Electrical Supplies

George passed away into God's loving embrace and eternal peace on July 21, 2001 at 9:00 p.m.

He is being remembered by his loving wife **Siu Eng (Rosalind)** and his two sons and daughters-in-law **Ernest** and **Juanita**, **Wilson** and **Nancy**; and his grandchildren **Russell**, **Candace**, and **Charlene**.

His remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Cathedral, 48 McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City, Philippines.

A Mass will be held at 9:00 a.m. (at Holy Trinity) before cremation on July 26, 2001 at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Inc. Guadalupe, Makati City.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)
DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY REQUIEMS FREE OBIT DESIGN

CELESTINO EBURAN ABELLAR

Retired US Army Captain
1910-2001
Died in the Grace of our Lord on Thursday, July 19, 2001.

His beloved wife **Remedios Noblezada-Abellar**; children **Tessie**, **Jo**, **Ceril**, **Emma**, **Bernie**, **Oni**, **Ani** and **Letty**; sons-in-law **Rading Dumlao**, **Felix Militante**, **David Davis** and **Axel Duwe**; daughter-in-law **Sheila Quirit**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, friends and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Solace II Room, Arlington Memorial Chapel, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, July 25, 2001 after the 8 a.m. Mass at Arlington Chapel.

Our Dearly Beloved

NATIVIDAD M. IBASCO, M.D.

Joined her Creator on July 19, 2001 at the age of 76.

Her loving daughter **Marie**; brother **Liling** (†); sister-in-law **Jo**; nephews and nieces **Vic**, **Inchet**, **Gil** (†), **Arlene**, **Catherine**, **Don Don** and **Coring** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Floresco Funeral Homes, 511 E. Mabini Street, Caloocan City.

Interment will be on July 25, 2001, 2:00 PM at Himlayang Pilipino, Quezon City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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Creba national convention: Part of GMA's healing mission

BY CHARLIE V. GORAYEB
National President, Chamber of Real Estate & Builders Associations

IN CONFRONTING the challenge of "healing a wounded nation," the Macapagal administration does not attempt to go about it by making big promises. But it is taking every conceivable step and adopting every practical, realistic measure to achieve its goal.

In the provision of housing for the people, for instance, Secretary Michael T. Defensor of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), in a message to Creba during a recent monthly business meeting, announced that the President "has put herself on the line in the massive task of providing housing to the homeless," and is calling on the private sector to "put ourselves also on the line for this noble task."

The forthcoming Creba 2001 National Convention in Bacolod City on Oct. 25-27, is part of the chamber's response to the challenge of putting ourselves on the line and thus contributing to this effort of healing the nation.

The Creba convention is designed as a national forum through which the stakeholders in the housing and real estate sector will identify and address current housing issues.

The Creba, it will be recalled, has packaged a comprehensive home financing scheme aimed at gradually licking the backlog of housing units estimated at 4.5 million units and still growing.

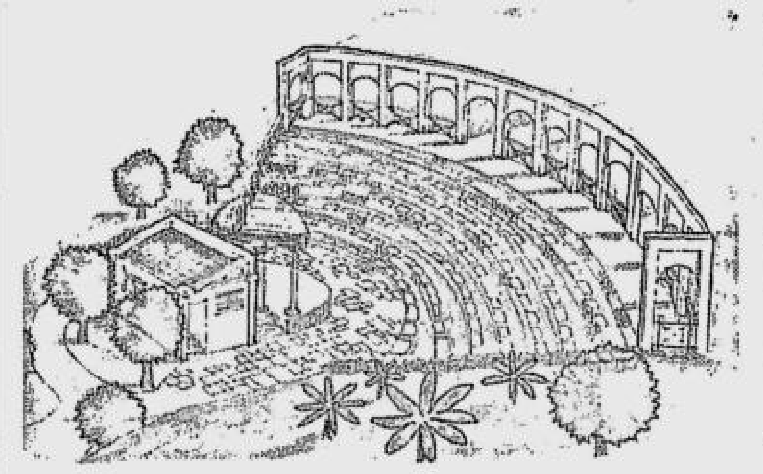
As the legitimate sounding board of the industry, Creba maintains that housing, with its overall impact on other sectors and job-generating impetus, holds a major key to healing the industry, the economy and the nation. The convention and its agenda constitute a response of every Creba member to the call of the Macapagal administration for greater private sector participation in the formulation of a national vision.

The convention program has been well-trimmed, focusing only on the most critical issues, while retaining the annual treats and opportunities that developers look forward to, such as the dialogue with the housing agencies. It provides the time and occasion for them to redress their grievances and voice out their sentiments. Off the formal session halls, ample time is assured for fellowship as is usual for a gathering of this kind.

As convention site, Bacolod City itself assures participants of utmost relaxing atmosphere After all, the Bacolod charm is her people, smiling, fun-loving, zestful and flowing with optimism, in good times or bad.

This is the most well-known Bacoleño brand of hospitality whose warmth, sincerity and natural friendliness can make every visitor come again to this Visayan city and its environs. All this certainly will provide the proper atmosphere for a fruitful national convention for the industry.

During this healing process, and during each and every step of the way to national recovery, Creba will help ensure that the voice of the housing sector will be heard. It hopes that its proposals for a sustainable housing program will be adopted to enable the industry to do its share in alleviating the plight of the nation's homeless families.



PLACE FOR WORSHIP SERVICES
Leading property developer Crown Asia has laid the groundwork for an ecumenical center inside Maia Alta, its premiere subdivision in Antipolo City. The center's amphitheater and stage provide residents with a place for worship services of their particular religion and the nearby tree park and lagoon make it an ideal promenade area and a place for contemplation.

Georgetown completes roadwork, power supply

ALL utilities—from its power supply, state-of-the-art water system, to its roadwork—are now fully in place at Georgetown Lakeview Vacation Estate in Metro Tagaytay.

"Georgetown is already 95 percent complete. We are just finishing the construction of our perimeter fences and adding the final touches to our clubhouse," Georgetown marketing director Sil Mendoza disclosed.

Georgetown is an exclusive community for weekend vacationers, retirees and families in search for a relaxing home away from home. Its current clientele includes professionals and *balikbayans.*

Mendoza said that Georgetown is slated to open its 800-sq.-m clubhouse (which will be for the exclusive use of homeowners) in August. The place offers modern amenities such as a fitness facility, a heated indoor swimming pool, a game room and a viewing deck perfect for both recreation and relaxation. "By September, our basketball and tennis courts will also be finished," he said.

He added that 20 houses are up for construction this year, with over 50 percent of the estate's lots already sold.

Georgetown offers a deferred payment system under flexible terms in its various packages. Prime lots are available at around P7,250 per square meter, while average lots are sold at around P6,750 per square meter. Interested parties may call 810-0374-or visit www.georgetown.com.ph or e-mail FGVI@sfi.com.ph for more information.

The 25-hectare vacation paradise provides American country-style homes to choose from where homeowners can enjoy a guaranteed unobstructed view of the magnificent Taal Lake and Volcano. This includes the recently inaugurated Cedarbrook and Rosewood Manor.

The Cedarbrook is a posh three-floor structure that sits on 386.7-sq.-m lot with a floor area of 43 5 sq. m. It has four cozy bedrooms, a 2-car garage, driver's quarter, powder room, balcony and a comfy fireplace perfect for Tagaytay's highland climate. The Rosewood Manor, on the other hand, occupies a lot area of 391sq. m with a floor area of 312.7 sq. m. It has three bedrooms, a powder room, 2-car garage, driver's.quarter, maid's room, fireplace, balcony and terrace that offers a perfect view of the Tagaytay vista.

A few hours' drive away from Manila, Georgetown Lakeview Vacation Estate offers the perfect spot to de-stress from the frenzied pace of urban living.

GSIS HOUSING DESIGN TILT
Government Service Insurance System general manager Winston Garcia, left, and other officials look over the design of architect Samuel D. Gasmen, right, that won one of the 3 slots under the P350,000 housing design competition during the recent GSIS 64th anniversary program. Gasmen's winning entry was submitted with former banker Rommel A. Domingo as co-participant. This entry and other winning designs for the P150,000, P250,000 and P450,000 categories will be available for GSIS members applying for housing loans.

Greenwoods Batangas adds 70 more hectares

THE ROAD to Batangas is becoming well-traveled these days, particularly with improved access via the Manila-Batangas link Southern Tagalog Arterial Road (Star) highway. Attracting more than the heretofore leisure-oriented trekkers to the province, Batangas' middle-class- and business-sector-led growth has also driven up demand for housing, prompting responsive Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc. to add 70 more hectares to its 40-hectare-Greenwoods Residential Estates.

The 70 hectares will greatly improve the already impressive appointments of the residential enclave with its modern amenities and master-planned community. The addition guaranteed a multipurpose clubhouse and sports complex, basketball and tennis courts, swimming pool and gym for men and women for the active movers of Batangas. A wide 12-meter avenue, 8-meter-wide secondary streets, concrete curbs and gutters address the need to provide for the expected bigger community.

Said Exequiel Robles, president of Sta. Lucia Realty: "The city streets are gradually up with traffic, what with Batangas residents and their guests going about their businesses more frequently, and more people from elsewhere relocating to the city. Although Batangas is far from reaching the point of congestion Manila has grown to and the city fathers will definitely be zealous about retaining open spaces and wider thoroughfares, we felt we should hedge against the urban crawl with a leisurely pace within our walls. Our wider roads are intended to address any traffic problems we may expect with more people setting up homes at Greenwoods."

More important, Greenwoods has a play and bicycle-friendly environment, which means more open spaces, landscaping, sidewalks, parks and common gardens.

Said Robles: "Space is precious within and outside the home and we intend to provide for this real need which is often sacrificed to maximize land use and by virtue of economy. Batangas' growth is inevitable given the hardiness of its people. It's about time, we felt, that most provinces like Batangas come into their own and capitalize on their own riches to offer the rest of the country and the world."

He added: "We'd like to think we are partners in that growth community-wise. If we're providing them big rewards for their toil by way of satisfying their housing needs, we feel we've accomplished much as a developer. We're willing to add some more hectares to provide them more value for their hard-earned money. Its an investment that's bound to benefit everyone all around."

Laguna BelAir III sets new trends

HOUSING developer Empire East Land Holdings Inc. has set new standards for community living with new model homes and new recreational amenities showcased in its Laguna BelAir III development, an expansion phase of the popular township located in one of the fastest-growing centers of the Calabarzon.

In Laguna BelAir III, part of a master-planned community offering a well-balanced lifestyle, homebuyers can choose from house and lot packages and individual home lots within a 63-hectare area.

Model homes

The all-new model homes are Audrey, Brenna, Chloe and Daphne, along with Francine II, Denise II and Corinne II, which are improved versions of three existing classic models. All seven model units come in bungalow or two-story layouts. Fully furnished and standard unfinished versions of the new model homes may be viewed at the site.

The new home features include an entrance porch, provision for fences and a carport, bigger bedrooms and living areas, improved ceiling height, additional upper floor toilet and bath, enhanced kitchen layout and laundry sink and powder room at the ground floor. An additional maid's room is available for the 79-sq.-m Chloe and 105 sq.-m Daphne models.

The classic Francine II (84 sq. m), Denise II (72 sq. m) and Corinne II (72 sq. m) all come in three-bedroom packages. Audrey (51 sq. m) and Brenna (72 sq. m) come with two and three bedrooms, respectively.

Vacation resort feeling

Giving Laguna BelAir III a year-round vacation resort feeling is a two-hectare leisure park, featuring luxuriant landscaping, a flower and butterfly garden, an aviary, picnic huts, children's playground, putting greens, mini-parks, a jogging trail, covered walkway, trellis, an elevated view deck, a pavilion, porte-cochere, a learning resource center and a man-made lagoon outfitted with a boat quay for boating and fishing activities.

Pocket gardens and perimeter plantings abound in keeping with the township park-like theme. The 20-meter-wide main road is dotted with trees while secondary roads are lined with plant strips. Houses are given adequate setback for lawns, front gardens and perimeter trimmings.

As in any other Empire East project, homeowners get to have peace of mind because of the controlled gate access, round-the-clock security measures and pedestrian-friendly thoroughfares.

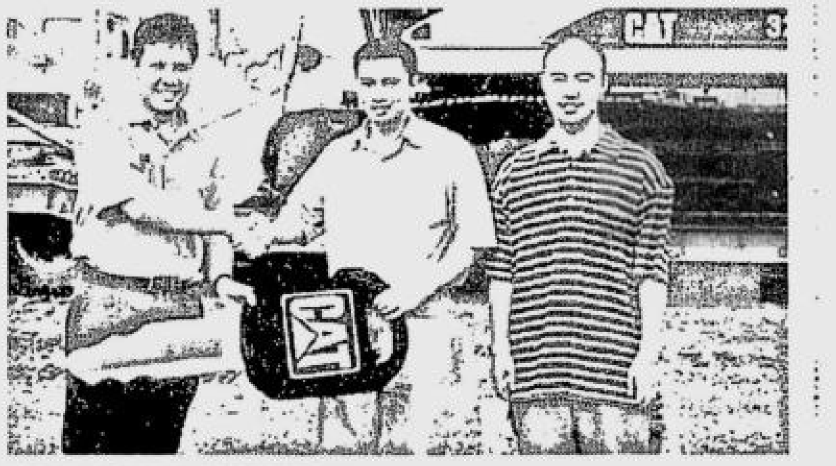
Both main roads and secondary roads are well-illuminated at night. Traffic safety signs, humps and highly visible street names are standard in Laguna BelAir.

Reliable services

High-caliber infrastructure, utilities and maintenance facilities address residents' needs for reliable community services. Each unit comes equipped with provisions for two telephone lines and for cable TV installation. An elevated water tank and a deep-well reservoir assure ample water supply. A power substation services the entire township and guarantees uninterrupted power supply.

For the convenience of all residents, the Laguna BelAir School, a topnotch learning institution with its mathematics- and science- intensive curriculum, and a soon- to-be-completed chapel are among the family friendly amenities thoughtfully built into the minitown.

Bounded by Sta. Rosa and Biñan, Laguna BelAir III is easily accessible through the Mamplasan and Sta. Rosa exits. A big plus for homeowners is its strategic location inside the Calabarzon growth corridor and nearness to progressive Laguna towns.



CEREMONIAL TURNOVER
As part of its P50-million equipment upgrading program, Satrap Construction, rated as a triple "A" contractor, recently took delivery of their second brand-new Caterpillar 320CL Hydraulic Excavator from Monark. Monark is the sole dealer of Caterpillar in the Philippines. Monark manager Manny Martin, left, turns over the ceremonial key to Satrap CEO Ronald V. Singson and VP Ryan V. Singson.

TOP FIRM DESIGNS WORLD-CLASS CLUBHOUSE
Jubilation, a breakthrough township in Biñan, Laguna, will feature "Prasadiya," a world-class clubhouse designed by Mañosa & Partners. Owner-developer of Jubilation is Earth+Style Corp. Victor H. Manarang (in coat and tie), Earth+Style president and CEO, said the 155-hectare Jubilation's project concept is a fusion of the best of Asian architectural styles. Designed using the revolutionary principles of "New Urbanism," Jubilation as a first-class environment promises to be a seamless township that can easily blend with its surrounding areas even as it retains self-containment as a community. Also shown is architect Francisco Mañosa.

Real estate selling: Aspects and challenges

BY FLORENTINO S. DULALIA JR.

MARKETING, one of the most dynamic businesses in any industry, is one of the basic and oldest trades in history. Our ancestors, before any form of currency was invented, bartered goods to acquire what they need. As soon as currency was used, the form of marketing became more complex.

The marketing practice evolved out of the satisfaction of our wants and needs. Since shelter is one of our basic needs, real estate marketing grew to be one of the most in demand and stable industries in the country.

Real estate brokers

In view of the evolving complexities of real estate transactions and since real estate industry is one of the most lucrative businesses in the country, specialist dealing with property marketing, development, and appraisals and any other aspect of real estate grew and thrived. These people, acquiring vast knowledge and expertise in real estate through their experience, are sought for their professional guidance and advice. Thus, out of the need for professionals who can deal with complexities of real estate transactions and procedures, the concept of real estate professionals emerged.

Marketing a property through experienced licensed real estate professionals (licensed brokers or agents) can simplify the process of real estate sales. Among the services/advantages being offered by licensed brokers/agents are the insurance of public protection through the legality of the transaction, help in the establishment of a fair asking price; promotion of the property to other fellow brokers/agents; can list properties in multiple listing services which is internationally accessible by both real estate practitioners and buyers; create, pay for and place advertising and can coordinate tripping appointments.

Real estate selling

There are many different factors affecting the salability of a property. If one were planning to sell a property or planning to have a career in real estate brokerage and marketing, it would be beneficial to familiarize oneself with these different factors.

The **price** would be the most important and determining factor in real estate selling. A fair and competitive price for the property should be set if one wants the property to be sold in a short time. Real estate brokers/appraisers and consultants can provide marketing analysis and advice and can show a client the recent selling prices of neighborhood properties.

Another important factor would be the **terms of payment** for the property being sold. Flexible and easy terms of payment will attract more buyers.

Property exposure and marketing is also one of the important factors in real estate selling. The exposure to a large number of qualified buyers through advertisements and promos and most importantly, the recruitment and maintenance a network of experienced brokers and agents who will present the property to their numerous clients is undeniably an important factor in selling properties. Studies have investigated and affirmed these marketing techniques.

Aside from the above-mentioned factors, the location, accessibility and amenities of property along with the property's condition and the availability/accessibility of the property for viewing can also significantly affect the buyer's decision to buy.

Furthermore, the **market conditions** (hot or cold market, interest rates, employment and growth rate, and consumer's confidence and purchasing power) and **competition or other properties for sale** have also been known to affect the salability of the property.

Challenges ahead

With the weakening peso and the resulting economic crisis, the real estate industry reflects a slower pace of sales and growth. Thus, a real estate broker faces a challenge in marketing real estates despite the unencouraging economic condition and decreasing purchasing power of prospective buyers.

But it seems that the real estate brokers are still confident and unworried about the future. They seem to be ready and equipped for any challenges. At present, they are gearing themselves up with the use of technology (multilisting and Internet/global marketing), and still aim and are working on the simplification of selling/purchasing process and laboring for a more accessible terms hoping to provide a complete service toward more accessible, affordable quality housing for all.

(The writer is president of both the Realty Service Council of the Philippines (Rescop) and the Philipppine Association of Realty Consultants and Specialists. Rescop is an umbrella organization of national realty associations. For more information, log on to http://www.philbizpages.com/rescop/index.htm, or e-mail at rescop@philbizpages.com or call 896-5788 or 927-0620)

REAL ESTATE

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Real property analysis to 'downgrade' forecast

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

If there's anything positive in the real property market outlook, it is its "bottoming out," which means things can't go further down much more.

This was the statement made by Colliers Jardine Philippines' research division, which analyzes Philippine property market conditions and forecasts, when asked if there would be anything positive the real estate market could look forward to.

Bottoming out

CJ's research division manager Richard Raymundo, in a phone interview, said CJ's theme for the property market this second quarter was bottoming out, or *"bagsak presyo."* For the second quarter CJ would downgrade its forecast, especially for the office take-up.

For Makati, he observed that if the first quarter performance seemed to lead to a 90,000-sq.-m market absorption for the whole 2001, the downgrading would mean just about 75 to 70,000 sq. m for the whole year.

The take-up or market absorption is basically the total floor area or new units absorbed by the market for the year.

Oversupply, economic and political uncertainties are some of the factors that CJ has mentioned for the flat rents and prices for the next 12 months.

"Everything, from the offices to the big expensive residential ones, will have a hard time because the supply is just too great," said Raymundo.

CJ's Philippine property market situationer for the second quarter (April to June) will be out in two weeks.

"If you're looking at anything positive on the second quarter, it's bottoming out. But even if prices and rents are down, it doesn't mean that we have a fast recovery going for us," said Raymundo.

No significant effect

Asked what the effects of the depreciating peso and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address (Sona) would have in the near future for the real estate market, he said that these would have no significant effect because the market was dictated by supply. The factors that matter are consumer and business confidence.

"Hopefully business confidence improves in the next six months," he said.

"If you are a businessman, now is the time to move because it's cheap. But the question is, could you sustain the business? Will your business contract or expand? It's still a matter of business confidence and consumer confidence at this point."

First quarter analysis

Meanwhile, CJ's first quarter analysis estimated prime lots in the Makati Central Business district to have an average value of P209,640 per square meter, a further decline of 6 percent quarter to quarter. Prime CBD land was estimated to be worth half the value of 1997 levels. CJ further expects CBD values to correct by 14 percent to the trough average of P180,000 per square meter by the end of third quarter 2001.

CJ has further downgraded its land values for Ortigas by nearly 6 percent quarter on quarter. The average land value for development sites in the secondary business district is estimated at an average of P92,890 per square meter or a 52 percent discount off peak.

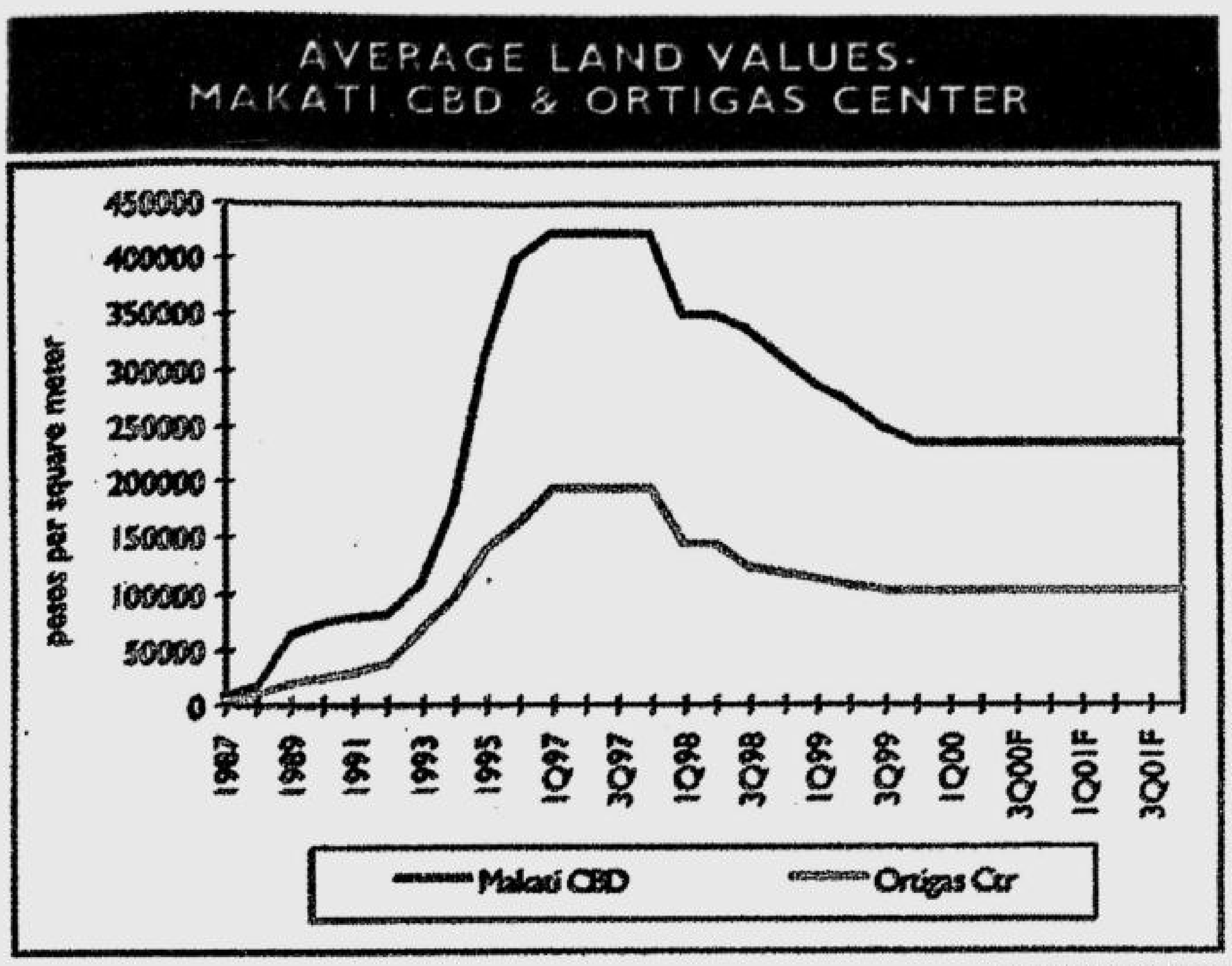
"We expect Ortigas land values to further tumble by 14 percent before settling at its trough of P80,000 per square meter at the end of 3Q 2001," stated a CJ analysis.

CJ said that land transactions continue to be scarce. "Liquidity constraints" and the "exuberance to purchase developable land" in the mid-1990s have led property developers to significantly curtail landbanking efforts. As a result, CJ said that most developments following the 1997 crisis have been on a joint-venture agreement with landowners.

The first quarter saw the housing sector posting a 44-percent year-on-year increase to 21,323 compared to last year, but its increase was credited for the low base comparison last year. There were only 6,612 mid-income units built in the first quarter of 2000.

Nevertheless, the first quarter showed a 90-percent increase in mid-income projects, resulting in 12,548 units built. Other notable mid-income projects approved for sale are Sunny Brook Ph3 (Filinvest Land, 213 units), Grosvenor Place Ph1 A (Robinsons Land, 282 units) and Villagio Ignatius (Earth and Style, 1,633 units). High-rise residential condos increased 41 percent year on year to 1,060 units. CJ stated that this was still below the five-year average of 3,706 units per quarter.

Approval of socialized housing units increased by nearly 11 percent to 4,278 units. The 3,437 low-cost housing units approved was a 5-percent year on year decline.



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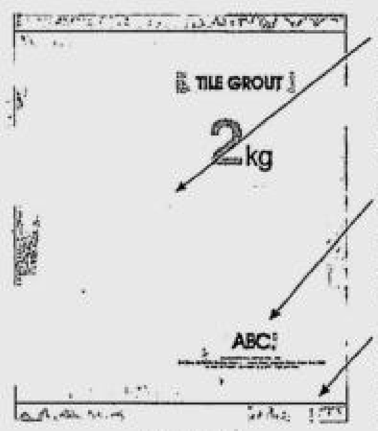

NO VERTICAL SEAL
The fake ABC Tile Grout products are packed in regular plastic bags that do not have the distinguishing heat seal on the back panel.

WRONG LOGO
The logo on the fake tile grout is distorted, with the letter "B" noticeably narrower than the other two letters.

NO SENSOR GUIDE
Bags of the fake products do not have a sensor mark on the bottom seal.

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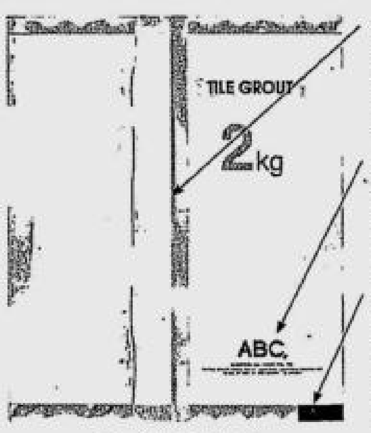

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Housing borrowers get ₱2B in loan relief

ECONOMICALLY distressed housing borrowers have received a total of P2.18 billion in loan-relief assistance from the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. through the agency's implementation of Republic Act 8501, the Housing Loan Condonation Act of 1998, according to lawyer Angelico T. Salud, NHMFC president.

Salud said that as of last month, a total of 37,273 housing loan beneficiaries, who availed themselves of the agency's various loan payment updating schemes, received the assistance in the form of loan penalties condoned.

"This is in compliance with the policy initiatives set by Secretary Defensor (of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council) for the launch of intensified loan collection campaigns by housing agencies to recover government housing investments while at the same time provide delinquent beneficiaries with affordable loan refinancing schemes with waiver of penalties as repayment incentive," Salud said.

Covered by the loan penalty condonation program, implemented since March 1998, are borrowers under the NHMFC's Community Mortgage Program (CMP), Unified Home Lending Program, and Folio I (Old Pag-Ibig/Open-housing loan) program.

Low-income borrowers, particularly marginalized informal settlers who obtained the CMP loans have hailed Defensor's active implementation of the Housing Loan Condonation Act of 1998 as "timely and responsive to the plight of beneficiaries under the prevailing economic conditions."

Salud also said that the NHMFC has adopted a number of loan collection strategies to increase its collection efficiency and improve the quality of its loan portfolio meant to effect upward movements in loan account classification, active foreclosure of "hard-core" delinquent accounts as well as through the provision of rental schemes for and active disposition of acquired housing assets.

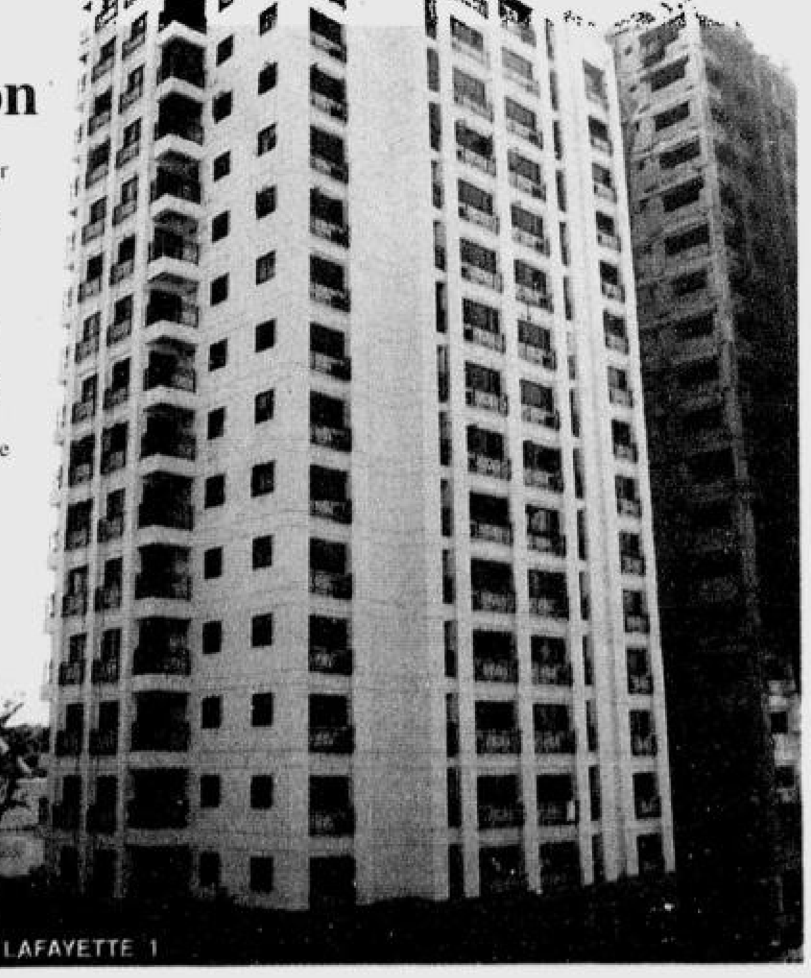
Eastwood Lafayette 1 nearing completion

LEADING urban developer Megaworld Corp. has announced the forthcoming completion of Eastwood Lafayette 1, part of a 3-building residential development now rising in Eastwood City.

The 19-story building has been painted and the podium's granite façade and exterior windows have been substantially completed.

Floor-by-floor architectural finishing works have reached the 19th floor while the electro-mechanical works are being fast-tracked.

Slated for completion by the fourth quarter of this year, Eastwood Lafayette 1 features a neo-classical design and amenities that include a five-star-hotel standard lobby, a gym and a laundromat.



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What does being fit really mean?

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

IT'S sad that many people only think about a lean and toned body as a sign of "being fit" because they miss out on the real meaning of fitness. But I am not surprised that this is the image that comes to mind because these are the kinds of bodies that are always being used in ads for gyms or fitness equipment. It is true that a body with hard, firm muscles and hardly any fat can be one of the signs of being fit, but it is not true that you have to look like that to be considered fit.

So what does "being fit" really mean? This is an important question because people either try too hard to be in shape and injure themselves since they think they have to look a certain way or people don't even bother trying to get in shape since they believe they can never achieve that "look."

Actually, being fit does not have much to do with how your body looks but has everything to do with how your body performs. To start off, here are several textbook definitions of fitness:

- "The ability to execute a given task effectively and safely." ("Facts & Fallacies of Fitness");
- "The capacity to achieve the optimal quality of life." ("Fitness Leaders Handbook");
- "The condition resulting from a lifestyle that leads to the development of an optimal level of cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and flexibility, as well as the achievement and maintenance of ideal body weight." ("American Council on Exercise Personal Trainer Manual").

The S factors of fitness

A more complete definition of fitness comes from the book "Physiotherapy" by Christopher Norris. It is easy to remember them as the S factors: Stamina, suppleness (flexibility), strength, speed (rate of movement and power), skill (athletic and motor), specificity (what you need to be fit for) and spirit (psychological aspect).

Being fit means having all these factors at a level that is necessary for your lifestyle and goals. An Olympic-class athlete requires a different level of fitness compared to someone who only plays a weekend sport. But no matter how sedentary your lifestyle is, you should, at the very least, have enough stamina, strength, suppleness and all the other S factors to be able to do your activities of daily living without getting fatigued or injured. This is called functional fitness. You should also, at the very least, be fit enough to stay healthy and prevent lifestyle diseases like diabetes, hypertension, stroke, heart conditions, etc.

Health versus fitness

Good health and fitness do not always go together. As paradoxical as it may sound, you can actually be fit and unhealthy or healthy and unfit. Before you get all confused, let me explain. If health is defined as the absence of disease and fitness is defined as the ability to do a given task effectively and safely, then it is possible for someone who lifts weights and has strong muscles to have clogged arteries. This could be a result of bad genes, poor diet, smoking, high stress levels, etc. On the other hand, it is possible for someone with weak and flabby muscles (because they don't lift weights) to have clean and healthy arteries. This could be a result of good genes and a healthy lifestyle (nutritious diet, no smoking, low stress levels, etc.).

Drug, supplement and herbal abuse can also explain how someone can be fit and unhealthy. Thus there are cases of superbly fit athletes dying of heart or liver ailments. I remember a fitness instructor who was taking steroids and was constantly on a high-protein, low carbohydrate diet to maintain her "six-pack" abdomen and her extremely lean body. She was always down with a cold and eventually caught pneumonia. Ironically, even though she was very fit, she was less healthy than her unfit clients.

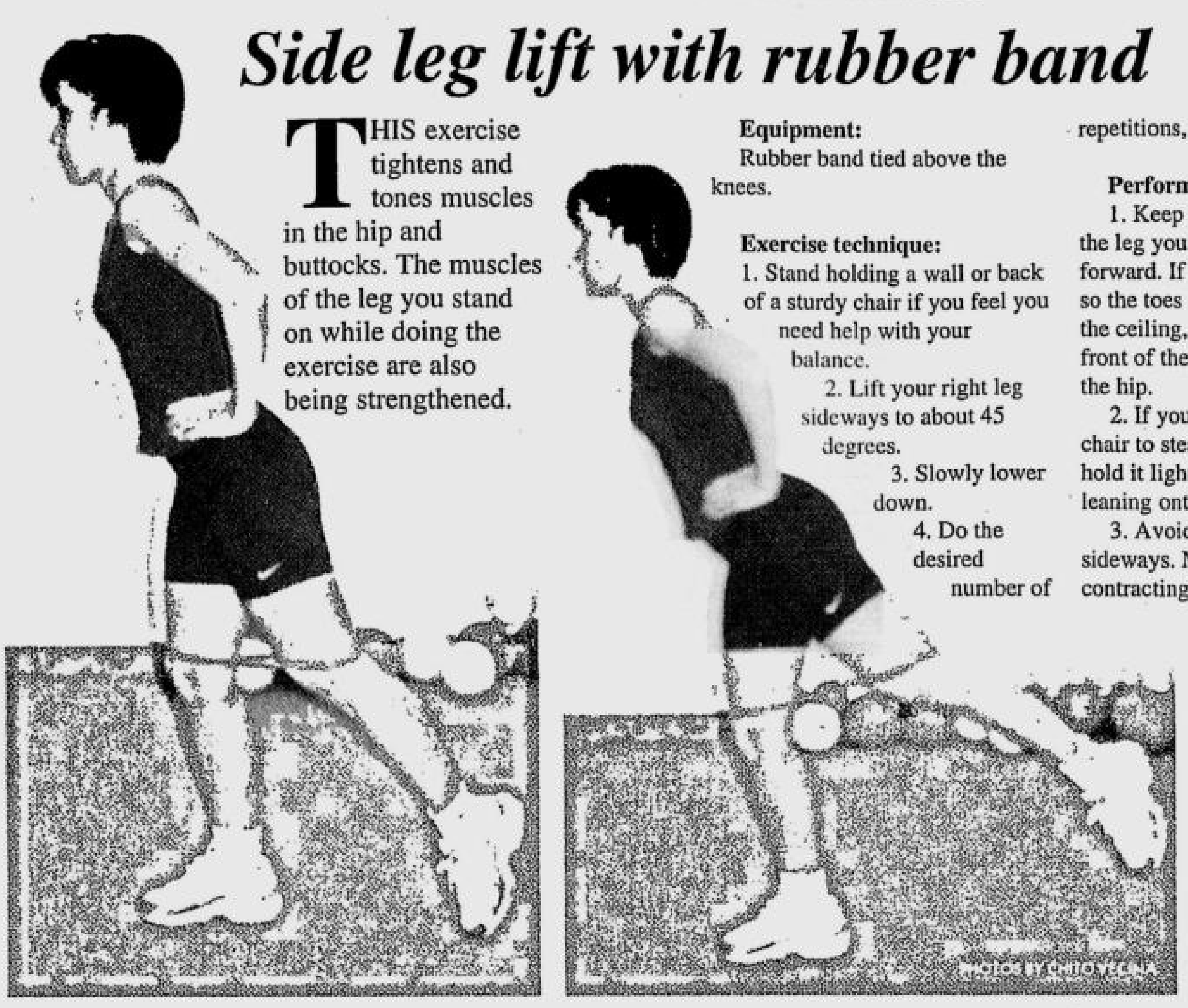
Generally speaking, however, fit people live longer than unfit people, according to studies done by the Cooper Institute for Aerobic Research. Head researcher Stephen Blair found that physically fit men are 53 percent less at risk of premature death than sedentary men while physically fit women are 98 per-

> Many either injure themselves by trying to be in shape or don't even bother to get in shape believing they can never achieve a certain look

WHAT/ p.C2

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Side leg lift with rubber band



PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

THIS exercise tightens and tones muscles in the hip and buttocks. The muscles of the leg you stand on while doing the exercise are also being strengthened.

Equipment:

Rubber band tied above the knees.

Exercise technique:

1. Stand holding a wall or back of a sturdy chair if you feel you need help with your balance.
2. Lift your right leg sideways to about 45 degrees.
3. Slowly lower down.
4. Do the desired number of repetitions, then switch sides.

Performance tips:

1. Keep the toes and knee of the leg you are lifting facing forward. If you rotate your leg so the toes and knee are facing the ceiling, you will work the front of the thighs instead of the hip.
2. If you are using a wall or chair to steady your balance, hold it lightly and avoid leaning onto it.
3. Avoid swinging the leg sideways. Move slowly by contracting the muscle first.
4. Keep your shoulders facing forward throughout the exercise. Avoid rotating at the waist.

Repetitions:

Do 12-15 repetitions on each leg. This equals one set. Do one to three sets.

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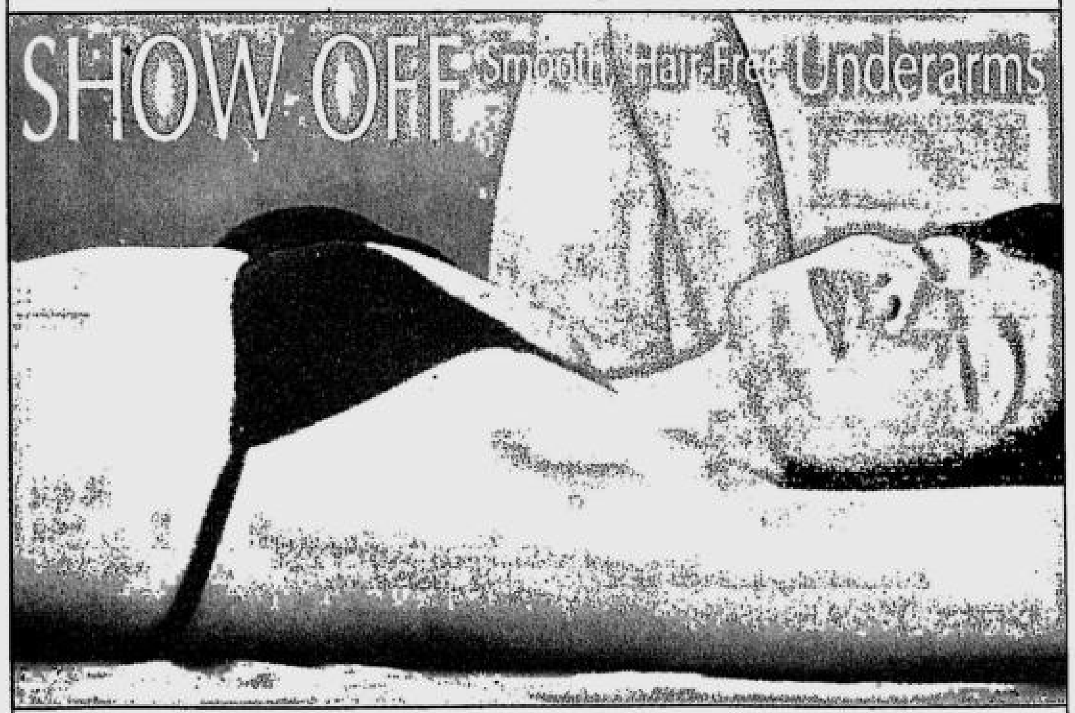
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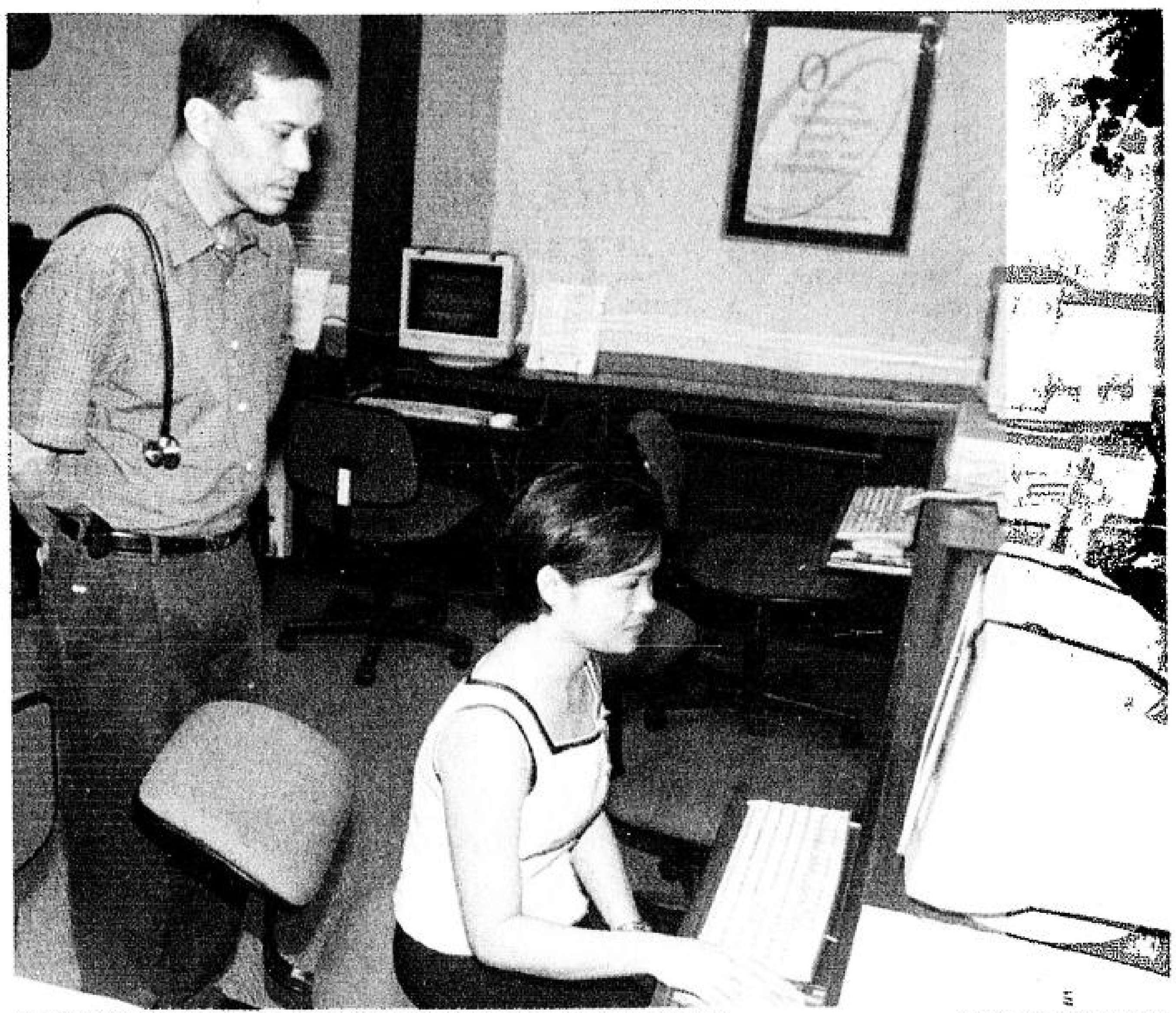
Treatment based on electronic evidence

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA



SHERLOCK HOLMES. Dr. Tony Dans at the MSD Resource Center in PGH

PHOTO BY JOHNNY VILLENA

INTUITION used to be a doctor's greatest ally. When prescribing medicine or diagnosing an illness, a doctor simply needed to trust his gut and rely on what he or she had learned in medical school. The "browse" method, where a doctor would read about some rare disease in a journal and hope that he would come across it in his lifetime, was the practice back then.

Nowadays, the call of the times is to teach would-be doctors information-seeking behavior or what is more appropriately called in medical jargon as Evidence Based Medicine (EBM). Dr. Tony Dans, chair of the Medical Research Council at the Department of Internal Medicine in the UP College of Medicine, is a cardiologist-internist-epidemiologist all rolled into one. He pioneered EBM in the country in 1991..

Epidemiology is the branch of medicine that deals with the incidence and prevalence of disease in large populations and with the detection of the source and cause of epidemics of infectious diseases. "Doctors need to cope with a lot of information now and the questions students ask are becoming harder. Lecturers need to come prepared," says Dans, who holds a master's degree in clinical epidemiology from McMaster University Medical Center in Canada.

"The browse method is no longer feasible owing to the amount of information that is available from books, lectures, journals and the Net. A doctor's intuition should be supported by medical evidence," Dans emphasizes. However, he does not discount the importance of intuition. "In some cases, there really is no evidence to back you up. In that case, you go with your intuition."

Modern training

Dans says that a paradigm shift has led to a different way of teaching medicine. "Previously, one had all the answers or, at least, students would assume that the professor would know all the answers. Nowadays, one must know *how* to ask the right questions and we want the faculty to say, 'Let's take a look at this,' or, 'I haven't seen this.'" He further stresses that it takes a certain amount of humility for a doctor to say that not everything he thinks works will actually work. "That's why it's important to have the evidence to back you up," he emphasizes. Thus, EBM has now been incorporated in the medical residents' training program in medical schools all over the country.

EBM, Dans explains, is a four-step process. First, the doctor poses a question. For example, "Is this drug good for my patient?, or, "Is this test necessary for my patient?" Secondly, the doctor seeks information. Once he has found it, he criticizes and filters the information that is available, which is the third step. Dans says there is a lot of trash on the information superhighway or even in medical journals. "One needs to be quite critical and discerning," he adds. The final step in EBM is the most important one; naturally, the doctor needs to make an informed and wise decision.

Medical Resource Centers (MRCs), which Merck Sharpe and Dohme (MSD) has set up in several hospitals all over the country, are critical to the EBM process. "They meet the need in step two, which is information seeking," Dans says.

According to Christine Liwanag, MSD's director for professional services, MSD's managing director Mick Harris started putting up an MRC in the Philippines upon realizing that "a resource center was very ideal for the country." Liwanag explains that the centers are helpful to doctors who need to refer to some resource materials. The MRC also conducts tedious literature researches.

The center's library provides the latest medical journals and literature, learning slides, audio-visual materials, CD-ROM data-search resources such as Medline, and other facilities for the use of doctors. Currently, there are MRCs at the Philippine General Hospital, Medical Towers Makati, Philippine Heart Center, National Orthopedic Hospital, and provincial MRCs in Batangas, Bicol, Cebu and Davao.

Dans adds that the accessibility and availability of necessary information can significantly help in the management of a patient's condition. Of particular value are the information tracking system and databases that quickly help a researcher locate the abstract or general content of an important study. According to him, these facilities help save a lot of time for both patient and doctor, and helps produce quicker, more productive searches.

Admittedly, Dans says, there has been some reluctance on the part of some doctors to adopt EBM. For one, the access to electronic information isn't universal; secondly, some doctors find it difficult to accept that their intuition can be wrong. Lastly, criticizing the literature available can be difficult for other people. "This is really the call of the times," Dans says. "We are trying to role-model information-seeking and asking a lot of questions, rather than giving all the answers."

In an age where new strains of viruses are sprouting like deadly mushrooms, or more lives are claimed by still mysterious illnesses, seeking the evidence, as Sherlock Holmes would say, becomes elementary, my dear Watson.

> Medical Resource Centers have been set up in several Philippine hospitals by Merck Sharpe and Dohme to make information more accessible to doctors and their patients

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

What does . . .

(From page C1)

cent less at risk of premature death than inactive women.

How much fitness do you need to lower your risk of premature death? While this formula is not the end-all-and-be-all, this is what Blair's research found. For women, walking two miles in less than 30 minutes at least three days a week or walking two miles in 30-40 minutes five to six days a week. For men, walking two miles in less than 27 minutes at least three days a week or walking two miles in 30 to 40 minutes six to seven days a week.

Fit and fat

Because of genetic factors and eating habits, people who exercise do not always get as thin as one would expect them to be. If you are one of these people, here is some good news. You can be fit and fat. Blair analyzed the lives of about 25,000 men over the course of nearly 20 years for a study that was published in 1995 in the International Journal of Obesity. He was surprised to find that among the fit men (those who exercised regularly), the fat ones lived as long as the thinner ones. Even more surprising, the thinner men who were out of shape were nearly three times more likely to die young than fat men who exercised regularly were. In other words, it was how much regular exercise the men got rather than what they weighed that made a difference in how long they lived.

How fit do you want to be?

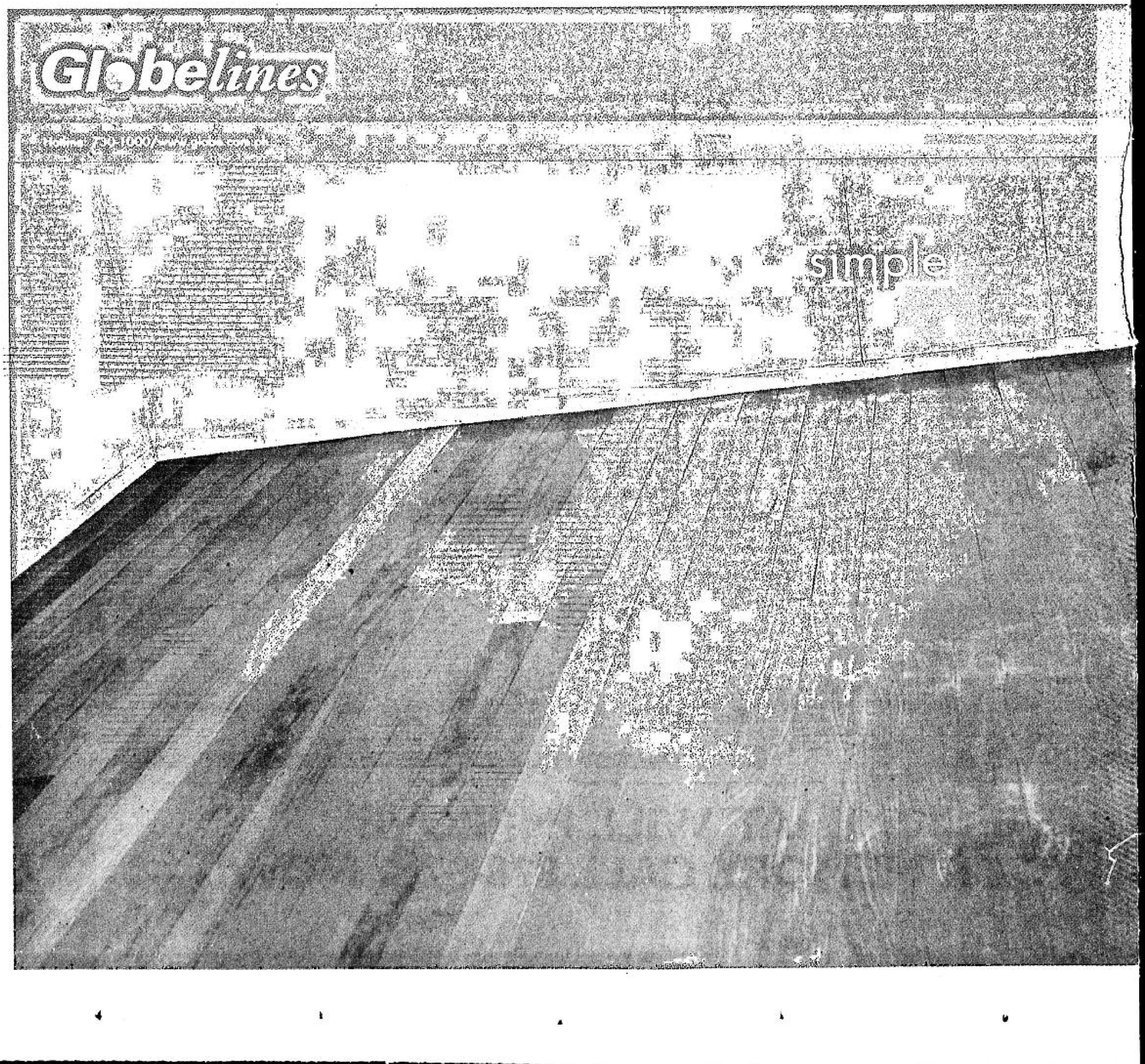
You need to seriously ask yourself this question because it will determine how much time and effort you will put into your exercise program. In my opinion, fitness can come in four levels depending on how fit you want to be. They are health, function, aesthetics and performance.

For bare bones health, then Blair's formula above will be enough. For optimum functional fitness, you need the same aerobic exercise formula plus the other components of muscular strength and flexibility. Twenty minutes of resistance training (an example is lifting weights) twice a week (one set of 12-15 repetitions, one exercise per body part) and stretching exercises three times a week (one stretch per body part held for 15-30 seconds).

For aesthetics results as well as higher levels of stamina, strength and flexibility, I can't give a set formula because everyone's body is different but your program could look something like this: 30-60 minutes of moderate to high intensity aerobics (walking, running, cycling, etc.) three to six times a week, one hour of resistance training three times a week, and some kind of combination strength/stretch program like Pilates or yoga once or twice a week. Needless to say, proper nutrition is very important to achieve the so-called fit look.

Being fit for performance could mean anything from recreational golf to professional basketball to Olympic swimming. Aside from a program of physical conditioning, there are also the hours of practice to reckon with. No wonder athletes are considered the elite of the fitness world.

For past articles and exercises, visit www.tinajuanfitness.com.



Fascination with the supernatural, the bizarre and the unknown

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

STORIES of human contact with the supernatural, the strange and the unknown have always fascinated Filipinos. And the mass media, especially television programs and movies, have often depicted such encounters. And because of our natural curiosity for such stories, they always rate high in TV viewership.

Unfortunately, stories with a supernatural or paranormal theme are often treated in a superficial way or as mere horror stories. There is hardly any depth or originality of presentation. They depict almost the same old angles and ask the same old questions. Hardly any progress has been made in this genre during the last 25 years. Maybe the technical presentation, color or sound is better, and the equipment better or more modern. But the treatment of the stories remains boringly superficial and often inane.

Recently, another attempt at the same theme have been aired separately by two competing channels. One tends to be more of a horror film than the other, which tries to be serious and factual about the whole thing. But neither one takes off.

Despite good intentions the shows fall flat on their faces precisely because there's nothing new to tell. Even the one which pretends to be a documentary, à la "Sightings" or "That's Incredible," does not succeed in being credible. This is mainly because the writers did not research their subject deeply enough and hardly any explanation is given to make the events credible and understandable to the viewer.

There seems to be a reluctance to find a rational explanation for paranormal or supernatural phenomena, even if there exists some authoritative, scientific and credible explanations for them. The TV producers would rather leave it to the audience whether "to believe the story or not." This often leaves the audience with a feeling of emptiness and frustration.

This attitude prevails even in a television network known for its depth and analytical treatment of stories adopted for television. The semi-documentary film they are showing weekly about the supernatural lacks credibility.

Recently, I was interviewed by a well-known and multiawarded female television host on the subject of faith healing and psychic surgery. At first I declined to be interviewed because I knew they would ask me the same tired questions about the subject; moreover, they were not willing to pay for my time or for the materials they usually borrow from my library for visuals.

Finally, I gave in after repeated appeals from them. I was interviewed for more than one hour by the program's host herself. She asked whether I believed psychic surgery to be genuine. I said, yes, and gave her medical laboratory proofs, both from local and foreign sources, of the genuineness of the tissues taken out of patients' bodies. I also quoted a number of international scientists, saying they were convinced of the authenticity of Philippine psychic surgery. But when the program was shown on TV, they only showed less than two minutes of my interview and even chose the more trivial aspects of my statements. The medical and other scientific proofs I showed them were not mentioned at all. So the question remains whether the Philippine phenomenon of psychic surgery is genuine or not. That is how it has always stood with the public.

I do not know when television producers will wake up to the reality that the Filipino audience has changed. It now looks for explanations and in-depth research on these strange occurrences, unlike before when it only wanted entertainment. Foreign television companies are far more advanced and more realistic. They make sure they have expert advice on topics they don't understand, so they don't look foolish in the eyes of the TV audience worldwide.

For example, when Discovery Channel decided to feature Asian beliefs in the supernatural and the use of psychics for detective work, I was one of those requested to give my expert opinion on the topic under discussion. The Hong Kong-based affiliate TV company that contacted me explained that they make careful selections as to who will act as experts or resource persons to shed light on a subject. They don't interview just anybody for the program, unlike here.

In the Philippines, no expert on paranormal phenomena is ever sought when featuring stories of a paranormal nature. They merely interview anyone who may happen to encounter a supernatural event, or those who have heard it from others, and so on. The script is left without any credible explanation of why things happen as they do. Then the host will usually ask the audience at the end, "Do you think what you have seen is true or not? You be the judge."

My goodness! For how long are we going to treat our local audiences like they were morons who can't see the same worn-out treatments of the same worn-out topics year after year?

It's about time television companies raised the level of discussion on these mysterious topics. We need to turn to experts, to scientists, to researchers to shed some light on them, rather than rely on intellectually ill-equipped interviewees to provide the answers. We have enough available experts in this field, a few of whom have worldwide recognition. Why not consult them? Why not spend a little more to have a better and superior program that can truly compare with the best in the world? Why do we insist on treating in a mediocre way those things we really are very good at—such as faith healing, elementals, contacts with the dead and other supernatural phenomena?

Address letters to this column at 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco @geocities.com. Visit www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday at 6-8 p.m.

Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

What are disapproved charges?

Disapproved or disallowed charges are hospital bills that are considered not covered and not part of the benefits due the patient under the contract. When a member is hospitalized of a covered illness, he may or may not incur and asked to pay disapproved charges upon discharge depending on the situation. Most common examples of uncovered charges are room and board excess on top of plan, telephone expenses, extra food tray, extra bedding, prescribed medicines after discharge, etc.

Meet your MEDICard Team

After earning her degree in Medicine from UST, **Dr. Solita Isidro-Tadoy** chose Pediatrics as her line of specialty with training from East Avenue Medical Center, graduating in 1993. She pursued further training to sub-specialize in Pediatric Nephrology from the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTI) and is affiliated to the Philippine Pediatric Society, Philippine Medical Association, Pediatric Nephrology Society of the Philippines, and Philippine Society of Nephrology. For consultations, you may visit Doc Solita at room A17 of NKTI every Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 8 to 10 AM.

Dr. Imelda Olivarez-Orteza is MEDICard's accredited doctor based in Olivarez General Hospital. Doc Imelda is the wife of Dr. Neal Orteza, MEDICard's medical coordinator for the same hospital. She earned her degree in Medicine from the Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center in New York and later chose to specialize in Pediatrics, which she has been practicing for over 11 years now. You may visit Dr. Orteza for consultations at the Pedia Clinic of Olivarez General Hospital every Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9:30 AM to 12 noon and again from 3 to 5 in the afternoon.

If you are in need of a good internist, you can visit Dr. Jesus R. Ambat at the De La Salle University Medical Center. Doc Jesus, a Medicine graduate of De La Salle College, received his training in Internal Medicine from Medical Center Manila and later pursued sub-specialization training in Pulmonology from the Lung Center of the Philippines. He currently holds membership affiliations to the Philippine College of Physicians, Philippine College of Chest Physicians and the Philippine Medical Association-Cavite Medical Society Component. For consultations, you may visit Doc Jesus from Mondays to Saturdays from 10 AM to 1 PM.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. HV Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For membership inquiries, please call 818-2161 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. *Log on to www.medicardphils.com*

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3-Way Calling
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Call Waiting
(signals incoming caller while on the line)
Duplex Number
(assigns 2 numbers with distinct ringing tones)

Seminar on healing crystals

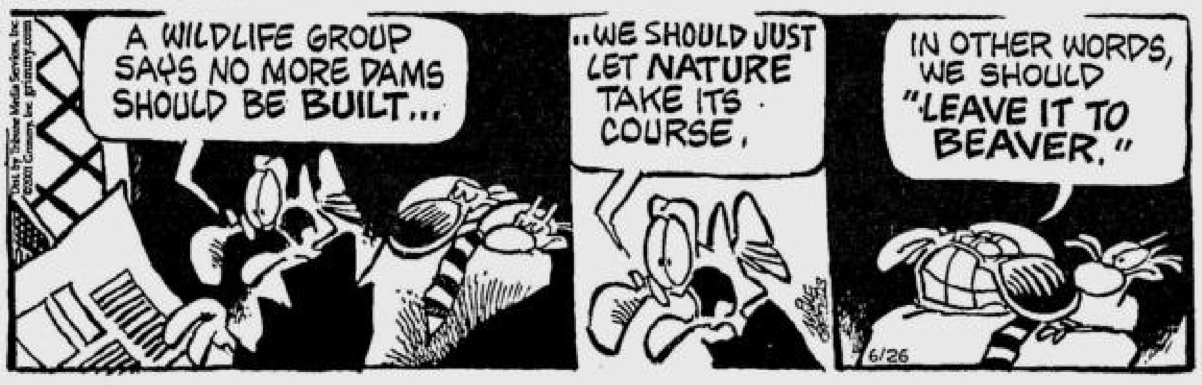
VETERAN alternative practitioner and crystal healer Mariano Teng will introduce participants to the fascinating world of quark crystals during Minex's seminar on "Using Crystals for Healing and Attracting Good Vibes," July 29, 2-6 p.m., at Minex Main Office, 1621 J. Bocobo St., Malate, Manila.

In a setting suffused with crystal vibrations and surrounded by huge and varied Brazilian quartz crystals, learn the basics of how to use crystals and gemstones to amplify energy, correct imbalances in the body's energy centers, heal specific physical ailments and remove negativity from the multidimensional human energy system.

How to place crystals in the environment to tranquilize, harmonize, attract prosperity and protect against radiation, background radiation and negative energy will be also be discussed. For free registration, call Minex at 525-5795, 523-1739, or Melanie Talag at 725-4968.

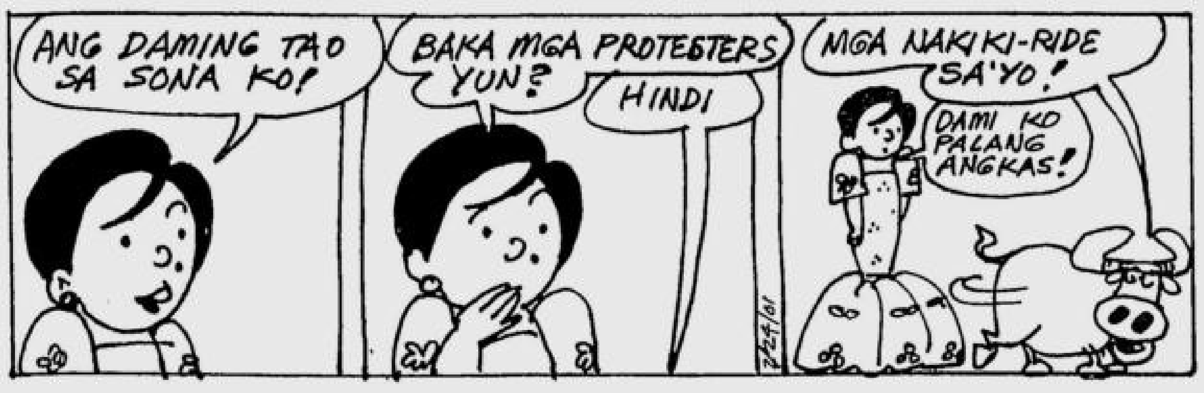
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


A WILDLIFE GROUP SAYS NO MORE DAMS SHOULD BE BUILT...
..WE SHOULD JUST LET NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE.
IN OTHER WORDS, WE SHOULD "LEAVE IT TO BEAVER."
6/26

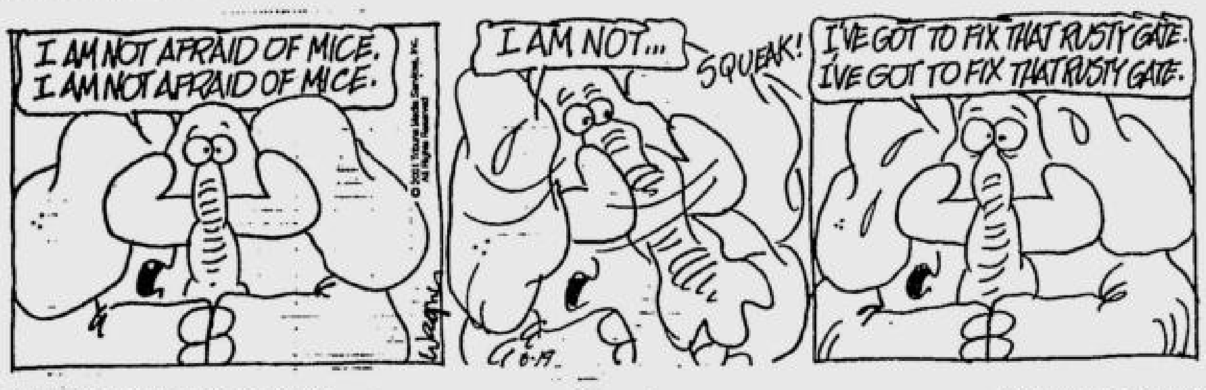
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG DAMING TAO SA SONA KO!
BAKA MGA PROTESTERS YUN?
HINDI
MGA NAKIKI-RIDE SA'YO!
DAMI KO PALANG ANGKAS!
7-24-01

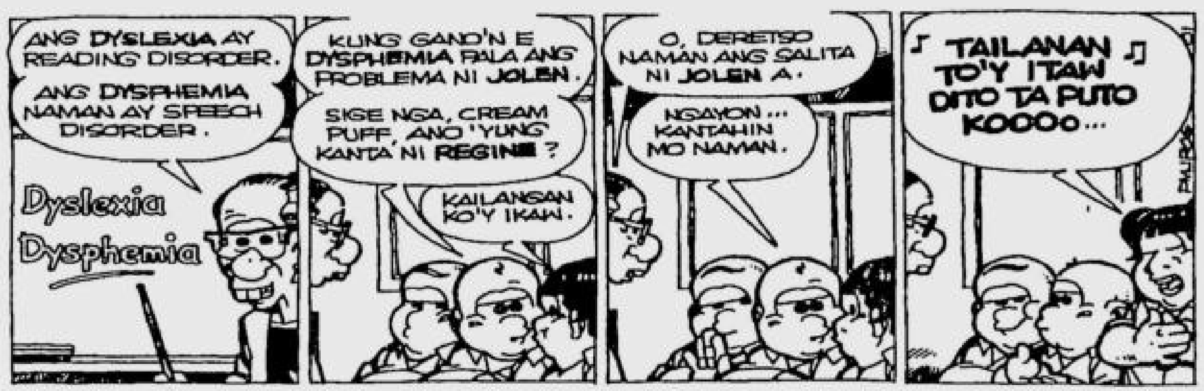
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


I AM NOT AFRAID OF MICE. I AM NOT AFRAID OF MICE.
I AM NOT...
SQUEAK!
I'VE GOT TO FIX THAT RUSTY GATE. I'VE GOT TO FIX THAT RUSTY GATE.
6-19

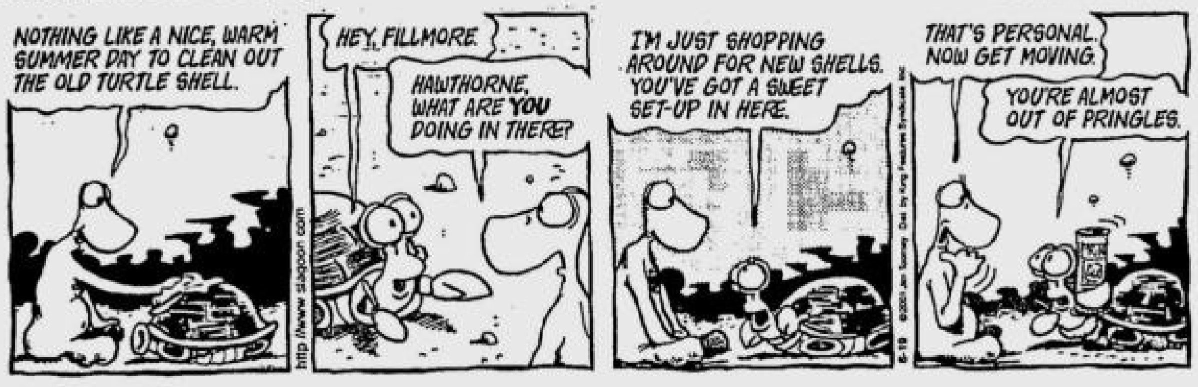
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANG DYSLEXIA AY READING DISORDER.
ANG DYSPHEMIA NAMAN AY SPEECH DISORDER.
Dyslexia
Dysphemia
KUNG GANO'N E DYSPHEMIA PALA ANG PROBLEMA NI JOLEN.
SIGE NGA, CREAM PUFF, ANO 'YUNG KANTA NI REGINE?
KAILANGAN KO'Y IKAW.
O, DERETSO NAMAN ANG SALITA NI JOLEN A.
NGAYON ... KANTAHIN MO NAMAN.
♪ TAILANAN TO'Y ITAW DITO TA PUTO KOOOo... ♫

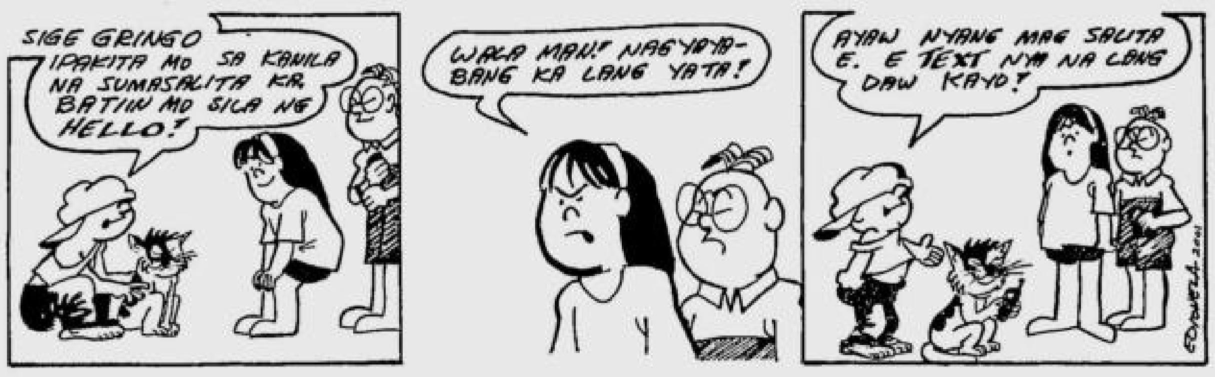
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


NOTHING LIKE A NICE, WARM SUMMER DAY TO CLEAN OUT THE OLD TURTLE SHELL.
HEY, FILLMORE.
HAWTHORNE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THERE?
I'M JUST SHOPPING AROUND FOR NEW SHELLS. YOU'VE GOT A SWEET SET-UP IN HERE.
THAT'S PERSONAL. NOW GET MOVING.
YOU'RE ALMOST OUT OF PRINGLES.
http://www.slagoon.com
6-19

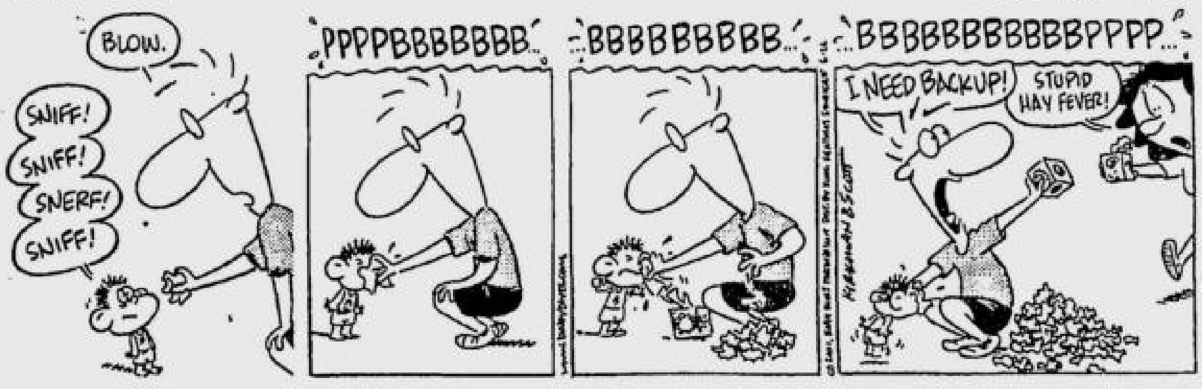
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


SIGE GRINGO IPAKITA MO SA KANILA NA SUMASALITA KA. BATIIN MO SILA NG HELLO!
WALA MAN! NAGYAYABANG KA LANG YATA!
AYAW NYANG MAG SALITA E. E TEXT NYA NA LANG DAW KAYO!
EDIONELA 2001

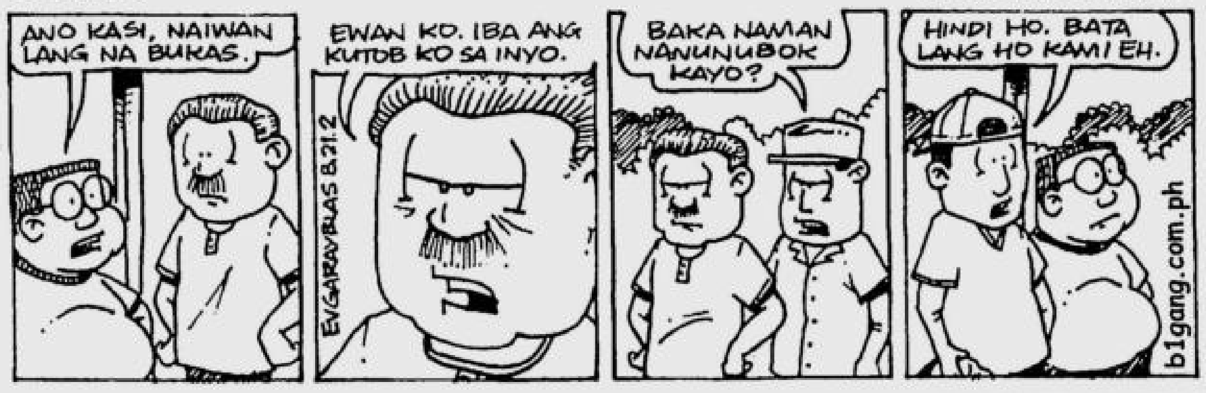
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


BLOW.
SNIFF!
SNIFF!
SNERF!
SNIFF!
PPPPBBBBBBB...
BBBBBBBBB...
BBBBBBBBBBBPPPP...
I NEED BACKUP!
STUPID HAY FEVER!

B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


ANO KASI, NAIWAN LANG NA BUKAS.
EWAN KO. IBA ANG KUTOB KO SA INYO.
EVGARAYBLAS 8.21.2
BAKA NAMAN NANUNUBOK KAYO?
HINDI HO. BATA LANG HO KAMI EH.
b1gang.com.ph

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Amelia Earhart, Pat Oliphant, Lynda Carter, Barry Bonds, Kadeem Hardison, Jennifer Lopez, Mara Wilson, Anna Paquin

Happy Birthday: Good fortune is ahead as you delve into projects you have wanted to do for some time now. You have the desire, discipline and determination to control your direction and future success. So get moving—the world awaits. Your numbers: 8, 13, 22, 27, 29, 32

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your ideas will be so good that they should lead to a raise. In fact, if the money isn't offered, start looking for a boss who will appreciate your talent. You may even want to consider being your own boss.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Firm up those plans to do something special with your partner. You can make changes that will captivate your mate.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Do whatever is necessary to smooth over problems at home. A little gift, a few nice words and tenderness will help ease the tension.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You need to spend time with friends who understand your concerns and your problems. Their advice will give you some insight. After all, it's easier to view a situation from a distance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You need to push your abilities at work. How could your talent go unnoticed? Maybe it's time to point it out to your boss. You can fulfill your creative needs by starting new hobbies.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't even think about using emotional blackmail. Your partner is so much in love with you it's not funny. Stop playing with fire and start giving back some of that warmth, or set your mate free.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't become involved in other people's affairs. Concentrate on making the necessary changes to your home. Avoid intimate relationships with clients or colleagues.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): If you participate in worthwhile activities, that person you've been fantasizing about may appear. Let the inhibitions go and be prepared to experience the time of your life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't talk about other people unless you're looking for a dispute. Concentrate on the problems in your own backyard before chattering on about others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will be drifting and daydreaming today. Book yourself on a vacation that promises a multitude of adventures. You need a break or at least a creative outlet.

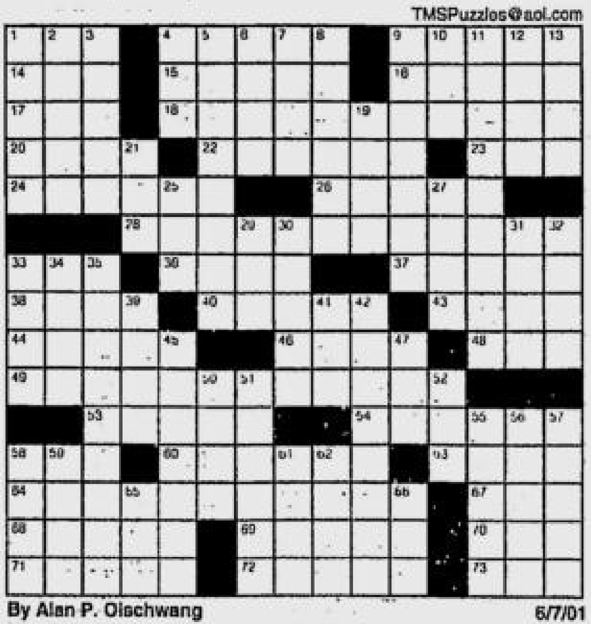
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your nerves will be shot if you've allowed your partner to get to you. Look into ways of improving your surroundings, and if that means moving, then start packing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Love is evident. You've been waiting for this passionate moment for some time now. Don't be shy, or it will pass you by. Opportunity will be knocking, so keep your eyes open.

Birthday Baby: Your carefree attitude and desire to take on the world can make you slightly reckless. Although sensitive, you are willing to test your talents as you step into the spotlight over and over again.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
6/7/01

ACROSS
1 Minnesota's twins?
4 Tennis shot
9 Showery month
14 Ready to go
15 __ Domingo
16 Actress Davis
17 Start of Lily Tomlin quote
18 Part 2 of quote
20 Mine finds
22 The Promised Land
23 Scandinavian country: abbr.
24 Take disciplinary action
26 Commutes
28 Part 3 of quote
33 Occupation
36 Jacob's twin
37 Discard
38 Noble rank
40 Of Icelandic literature
43 Sicilian erupter
44 Stand-in
46 Religious image
48 Russ. or Lith., once
49 Part 4 of quote
53 Steel plow pioneer
54 Accused
58 Station from Tenn.
60 South Carolina river
63 Singer Amos
64 Part 5 of quote
67 End of quote
68 Birth-related
69 Blue dyes
70 UFO crew
71 Soothes
72 Hidden store
73 Cover crop

DOWN
1 Bar legally
2 Indian jacket style
3 Dutch painter
4 Booming jet's letters
5 Italian nobleman
6 Celebes ox
7 Bedazzle
8 College in Geneva, NY
9 Meetings' plans
10 Church seat
11 Puts back in a slot
12 Centerward
13 Cowardly Lion's portrayer
19 Lion's den
21 Make a lap
25 Haggard heroine
27 Behold, Caesar
29 Way cool!
30 Sound track
31 Holm and McKellen
32 Practice boxing
33 Quip
34 Solemn vow
35 West Indies trees
39 Better than never?
41 Hospital letters
42 Bossy's ringers
45 Some engines
47 Nothing at all
50 Angelico and Diavolo
51 Meddlesome women
52 A Cole
55 Societal standards
56 Muse of poetry
57 Scatterbrained
58 Daly of "Cagney & Lacey"
59 Weather grp.
61 Hue
62 Director Kazan
65 "Norma __"
66 Gray shade

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

O	A	K	E	N	■	G	A	I	N	■	I	R	O	N
P	R	O	N	E	■	A	L	S	O	■	R	A	C	E
T	E	N	C	O	M	M	A	N	D	M	E	N	T	S
S	A	G	A	■	A	U	N	T	I	E	■	G	E	T
■	■	■	S	K	I	T	■	■	C	A	D	E	T	S
U	N	S	E	E	N	■	S	C	E	N	E	■	■	■
P	E	T	■	P	L	A	T	O	■	■	S	T	A	T
T	W	E	N	T	Y	Q	U	E	S	T	I	O	N	S
O	T	T	O	■	■	U	N	D	E	R	■	E	T	A
■	■	■	V	E	G	A	S	■	C	I	N	D	E	R
B	A	Z	A	A	R	■	■	D	U	P	E	■	■	■
E	P	A	■	S	A	I	L	O	R	■	T	R	I	O
T	H	I	R	T	Y	S	O	M	E	T	H	I	N	G
T	I	R	E	■	E	L	S	E	■	A	E	S	I	R
E	D	E	N	■	D	E	E	D	■	C	R	E	T	E

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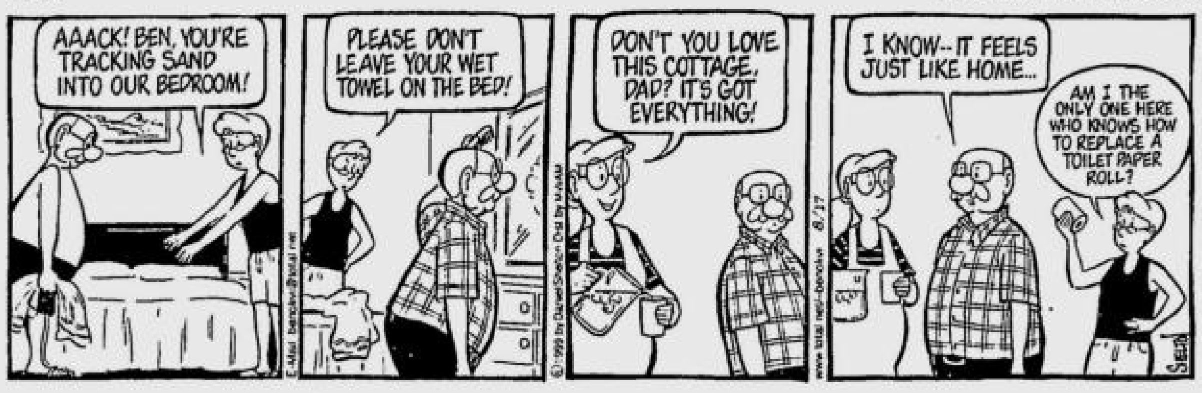
6/7/01

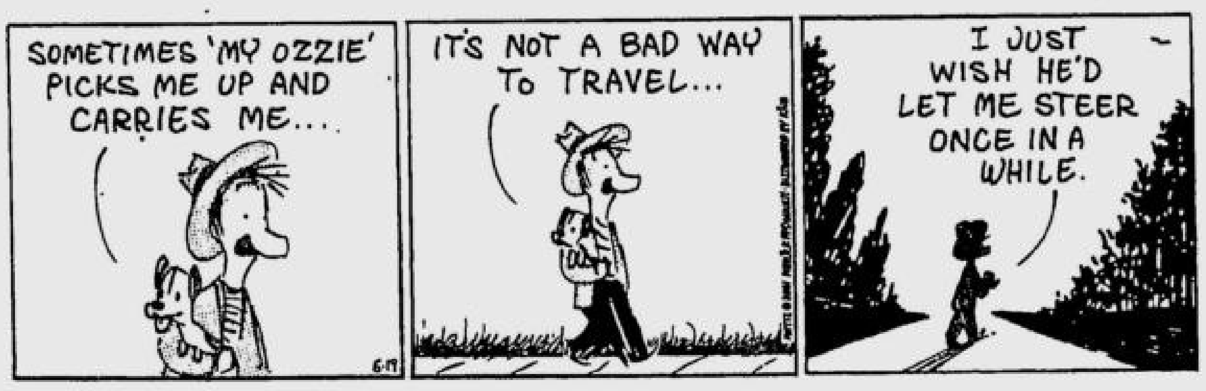
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


AAACK! BEN, YOU'RE TRACKING SAND INTO OUR BEDROOM!
PLEASE DON'T LEAVE YOUR WET TOWEL ON THE BED!
DON'T YOU LOVE THIS COTTAGE, DAD? IT'S GOT EVERYTHING!
I KNOW-- IT FEELS JUST LIKE HOME...
AM I THE ONLY ONE HERE WHO KNOWS HOW TO REPLACE A TOILET PAPER ROLL?
8/17

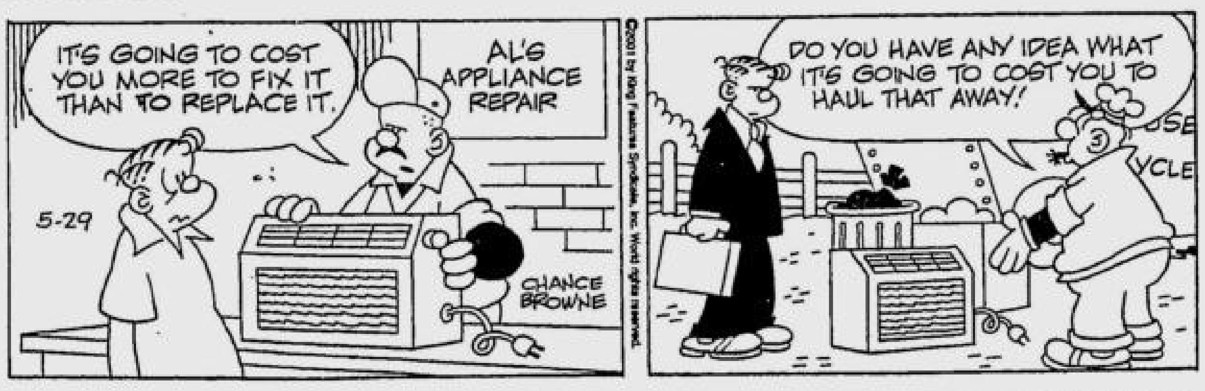
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SOMETIMES 'MY OZZIE' PICKS ME UP AND CARRIES ME....
IT'S NOT A BAD WAY TO TRAVEL...
I JUST WISH HE'D LET ME STEER ONCE IN A WHILE.
6-19

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


IT'S GOING TO COST YOU MORE TO FIX IT THAN TO REPLACE IT.
AL'S APPLIANCE REPAIR
5-29
CHANCE BROWNE
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT IT'S GOING TO COST YOU TO HAUL THAT AWAY!
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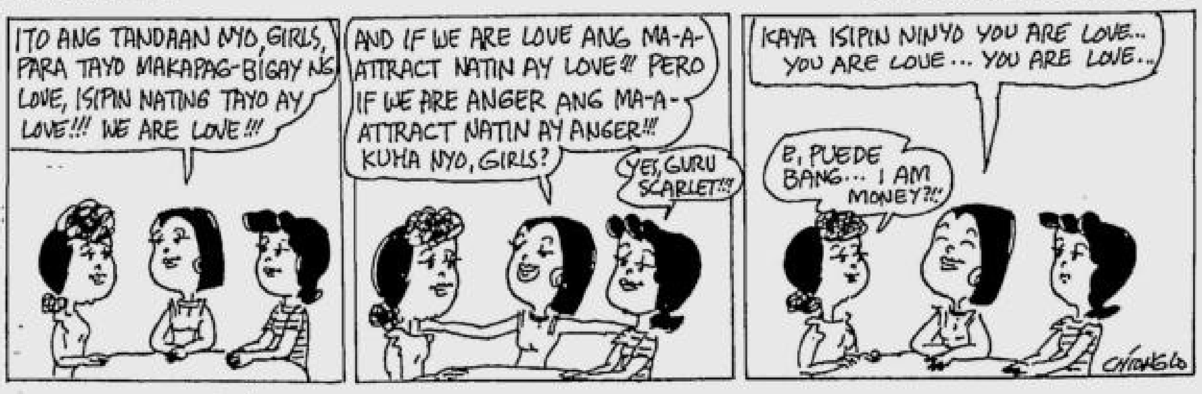
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ITO ANG TANDAAN NYO, GIRLS, PARA TAYO MAKAPAG-BIGAY NG LOVE, ISIPIN NATING TAYO AY LOVE!!! WE ARE LOVE!!!
AND IF WE ARE LOVE ANG MA-A-ATTRACT NATIN AY LOVE!!! PERO IF WE ARE ANGER ANG MA-A-ATTRACT NATIN AY ANGER!!! KUHA NYO, GIRLS?
YES, GURU SCARLET!!!
KAYA ISIPIN NINYO YOU ARE LOVE.. YOU ARE LOVE... YOU ARE LOVE..
E, PUEDE BANG... I AM MONEY?!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING